

# THE PILGRIM

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (1 John 4:14)

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## STANDING AT THE PORTAL

Standing at the portal of the opening year,  
Words of comfort meet us, hushing every fear;  
Spoken through the silence by our Father's voice,  
Tender, strong and faithful, making us rejoice.

"I, the Lord, am with thee; be thou not afraid;  
I will help and strengthen; be thou not dismayed.  
Yea, I will uphold thee with my own right hand;  
Thou art called and chosen in my sight to stand."

For the year before us, O what rich supplies!  
For the poor and needy living streams shall rise;  
For the sad and sinful shall His grace abound;  
For the faint and feeble perfect strength be found.

He will never fail us; He will not forsake;  
His eternal covenant He will never break.  
Resting on His promise, what have we to fear?  
God is all-sufficient for the coming year.

Onward, then and fear not, children of the day,  
For His word shall never, never pass away.

Frances R. Havergal

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## DON'T LOOK BACK

"No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Jesus spoke many short comparisons like this one. And we know that His words were exactly right. This saying is timely as we begin a new year.

Some have done a lot of plowing; I have done a little. If you look back, you can sometimes mar an otherwise straight furrow. *We should just swing that tractor around and straighten out that bad kink.* It won't work. You will really mess it up then.

As you plow, at least on new ground, it helps to pick a spot, a tree, or fence post, to set your sight on. It's like having a goal, a place to fix our eyes as we begin 2008. That aim is expressed in different ways, but it should include the intention to serve the Lord better. Does this sound too simple? In Jeremiah 7:22,23 God reminded Israel of His instructions to their fathers. Read both verses but notice the simplicity of God's command: "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you." Many times we know what to do but the problem lies in getting the consent of our minds to do it.

When Jesus said we should not look back, it was not to keep us from learning from our mistakes, but His response to a man who said he would follow the Lord but wanted first to "bid them farewell, which are at home at my house." To delay or put off a duty can be dangerous. Friends can protest. They can give reasons why this choice is wrong. Peter tried to persuade Jesus to avoid going to the cross. He told Peter, "Get thee



behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." (Matt. 16:23)

Friends tried to persuade Paul from going to Jerusalem, and he told them, "What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 21:13)

And young folks, you will hear voices today trying to keep you from reaching your goals in 2008.

First, let us be sure that our goals are right. Are we trying to make a name--make money--have fun? These may not be all wrong, but God is pleased with self-sacrifice, submission, and total commitment to His will. Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." "These things" are food, drink, and clothing.

Also, be aware of what it takes to reach a good goal. It doesn't just happen. Daily resolve, prayer, study, recognizing God's truth are all vital. I used to think something in print was surely true. But I found out early in life that much written material is direct from Satan. It is a tool used to build or to destroy.

Remember that the entertainment world produces just that--entertainment and not necessarily truth. It isn't enough for godly parents or church leaders to say, "Don't watch TV." "Don't read trashy novels." "Don't go to the movies." "Don't listen to rock music." "Don't spend idle time on the internet." These warnings are necessary, but the only real results will be from a resolve in our hearts to be true and keep our goals in view. May God help us to see the danger in these things that seem harmless but can keep us from looking ahead, aiming high at our goals.

An old Negro spiritual says: "Keep your hands on the plow and hold on." (And don't look back.) --L.C.

## FREE AT LAST

I feel privileged to have known one who was a godly example of patience in sufferings, submission to God's will, cheerfulness in trials, and victory in daily tests of his faith. I don't mean that Donald Kline was perfect. (He would not want anyone to say that.) But his life of meekly accepting more and more handicaps by multiple sclerosis was a testimony to us all.

Donald's family will miss his quiet testimony and prayer support, and trying to ease his sufferings. Alice spent hours with him and fed him when he could no longer hold a spoon.

Donald first of all loved the Lord. His favorite hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," was used often at his bedside. Another frequent request was "There Are Hearts That Never Falter." He knew the Brethren Hymnal well, choosing numbers and multiple verses of hymns.

Visitors left his presence resolving to be more submissive to God's will. Those who cared for him praised his godly attitude. In the days when he could wheel himself around, he often encouraged other residents of Miller's Merry Manor, giving them his sympathetic attention, quoting or reading Scriptures, and pointing them to the Savior who died for us.

As a boy Donald suffered from rheumatic fever, but he had a quick mind and was ever learning. Once as we discussed our relationship as cousins, he informed me that we were "first cousins once removed." He explained that it meant that I was first cousin to his mother. He was also sharp to point out typing errors in *The Pilgrim* without being critical.

Donald loved music. He had a beautiful voice and sensed good harmony. He had learned to play an instrument, but singing was his joy, and he used his voice to praise His Savior.

Years ago he gave me a short poem which he said was not to print. But I think he would not object to my sharing it here:

Jesus

He played it very well that day, That song brought from above.

With hands outstretched He struck the chords,

Those strains of dying love;

Those precious hands, whose tender touch

Could cool the fevered brow

Are amplified by wood and nails

To reach the millions now.

He loves you so! Amen.

We rejoice that Donald can now be at peace, free from bondage in a body that didn't work anymore, in the comfortable arms of our loving Savior. --L.C.

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### BEAUTIFUL FEET

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" (Isaiah 52:7)

When I think of beautiful feet, I think of Jesus the Nazarene. How beautiful are the feet of Him who brought us good tidings of great joy which is for all people. (Lu. 2:10) Through death, Jesus bruised the serpent's head, destroying him who had the power of death. (He. 2:14) But his heel was bruised as the spikes were nailed in, pinning Him to the tree. Those beautiful feet were bruised for love of you and me.

Jesus said, "No man taketh it (His life) from me, but I lay it down of myself." (Jn. 10:18a) Jesus was willing that His feet be bruised so we might live. Those beautiful feet were bruised for us, to bring us back to our Eden home. Paradise lost can now be reclaimed through Jesus and His work for us. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of Him who brought us



redemption! What an honor had the woman who washed Jesus' feet with tears and anointed them with ointment from the alabaster box. (Lu. 7:38) Those feet walked the dusty mountain path to bring her salvation. In a similar incident a woman poured ointment from an alabaster box on Jesus' head? Wherever the gospel goes in all the world, what this woman did is told as a memorial of her. (Matt. 26:13)

We too can wash Jesus' feet. Inasmuch as we help one of the least of His people, we do it to Jesus. (Matt. 25:40) When Jesus of Nazareth washes us, our feet too can become beautiful. How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, O prince's daughter! (Song of Solomon 7:1) Part of our armor to withstand the kingdom of darkness is, "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." (Eph. 6:15) "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things" "That saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" (Rom. 10:15) (Isa. 52:7)

Kevin Garber Greenville, Ohio

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## HISTORICAL

*The following selection, from Brumbaugh's History of the Brethren, is part of a letter of John Nass to his son Jacob telling of his voyage across the Atlantic.*

The 24th of June we went from Rotterdam to within half an hour's distance from Dort, where we lay still, the wind being contrary. On July 3rd we started and the ship was drawn by men several times on the river Maas, as far as the neighborhood of Helvoetsluys. There the wind became favorable so that we sailed into the sea on July 5th, near Helvoetsluys. Then the seasickness began among the people, that is, dizziness and vomiting. The greatest number after having vomited could begin to eat again.



On the 13th of July, early in the morning, we arrived in the port of Plymouth, which port lies in the midst of rocks. We had to lie in the middle of the harbor until the ship was released by the custom officers and provisioned.

On July 21st we sailed into the big ocean and on our left we lost the land, France and Spain. The 24th we also lost it on our right, namely England. The 25th a little child died. It came upon the ship very sick; the next day about 8 o'clock it was buried in the sea. When the body fell from the plank into the water I saw with great astonishment that a large number of big fish appeared and darted quickly away in front of the ship, as if they wished to flee from the corpse.

For ten days we had steadily a good breeze, so that we sailed a long way on the big ocean.

The 28th of July, before daylight, a French man-of-war by the name of *Elizabeth*, came near us. This Captain examined our Captain in French. After having made themselves known to each other, they wished one another a happy trip and each went on his course.

After this day we had very changeable weather so that in three weeks we made only sixty hours (about 180 miles), which in very good wind we could have done in one day.

On August 3rd, I got up an hour before day in order to see how it was going, as I had made up my mind to watch the compass during the entire trip, to see if there would be a change in our course. When I reached the ladder, all the people were still asleep and a bedstead was under the ladder, and the coverlet of the people lay high up against the ladder, and during the night it had been raining a little so that it was slippery under the trap-hole, and while I was standing on the top step of the ladder and was about to climb on deck, the people in their bed stretched themselves and unwittingly knocked the ladder from under my feet; then I fell down from the top and with my left side I struck upon the ladder, that I was almost unconscious and

lay there a long time before I could get up. Then I had to lie on my back about two weeks till I could get up again and walk a little. At first I feared that I would remain lame, but to the great God be all the glory in His Son, who has caused me to get well again without herbs or plaster, so that I feel but little of it any more.

The 4th the crew early in the morning spiked a big fish with a harpoon. It was as long as an ordinary man and shaped in its head like a pig, also in body and insides like a pig.

The 7th of August during the night again a little child died and in the same hour a little boy was born, and the dead child buried at sea on the 8th.

The 11th and 12th we had a storm which was not very strong; however, it lasted forty-eight hours, so that all the sails had to be reefed, the rudder fastened, and the portholes boarded up, so that we were sitting in darkness, while the force of the waves struck through the porthole glass into the beds. Some people always have to vomit during every storm and strong, stiff winds.

On the 13th again a little boy was born. The 17th we had another storm, which was much stronger than the first for six or eight hours and blew the sea very high up. It lasted for one and one-half days and one and one-half nights, but towards the end was not so strong. Sails, rudder, holes, everything was hurriedly fastened up and left to wind and sea. After that it grew so calm that we did not get much from the spot during several days. During this time the people got well again from dizziness and vomiting. Then we got again strong wind from the side by which we made good headway.

On the 23rd of August again a child died and was buried at sea that evening.

The 26th, about 5 o'clock P.M., we passed by a mast standing fast, the point of which showed a half yard above the water, quite immovable and with ends of rope still on it. By

good fortune our ship passed it at about a rod's distance. The Captain had just been drinking tea. Many people were very much frightened by this sight, because it was impossible for this mast to be standing on the bottom and it yet was immovable.

The 30th, the last mentioned man again lost a child and it was buried at sea that night. Then we saw the first little fish with wings flying over the sea for two or three rods.

On September 6th in the morning the First Mate spiked a dolphin, which are quite different from what they are pictured in Germany. This day we had much heat and little breeze.

The 7th, another big fish was caught by the crew, which is called shark. The crew took a hook which was very large and strong and of about a finger's thickness; to this they fasten one and one-half pounds of bacon. When they saw the fish near the ship's side they threw the hook with the bacon to him, which he swallowed at once and since the fish was very thick and five feet long and of great strength in his tail, as well in as out of the water, they drew him into the ship with a very hard pull, and drove back all the people, so that it should not hurt anybody, as he struck the deck so powerfully with his tail that if he should have hit any one against the legs, those would certainly have been struck in two. But after the ship's carpenter had cut off his tail with his axe after ten strokes, his strength was all gone. His mouth was so big that he might have swallowed a child of two years. The flesh the Captain ordered to be distributed to the delighted people.

On the 11th again a little child died, without anybody having noticed it until it was nearly stiff, and the 12th it was buried at sea.

The 13th a young woman, who had always been in poor health, died in childbirth and was buried at sea on the 14th, with three children, two of them before and now the third the one just born, so that the husband has no one left now. . .



And since the trip owing to the many changes of wind had lasted somewhat long and the greater number of the people had all consumed their provisions and their conception (imagination or expectation) was always set upon six weeks from land to land, they had gone on eating and drinking hard, from morning until late at night. Then at last they found it a great hardship to live on the ship's fare alone; thus the greater number so entirely lost courage that they never expected to get on land again. (to be continued)

### TO OUR READERS

"Are all the children in--

The night is falling." wrote Elizabeth Roosen.

As we enter 2008 we look up into the face of Jesus who cares for our children and grandchildren and our scattered congregations. *The Pilgrim*, though just a small voice, also has a burden for our people in these last times.

Special thanks to our supporters: Bill Miller for mailing labels, Sarah Martin's updates and index, and financial donations from the Yellow Creek Congregation and others.

To those who read *The Pilgrim* as a gift, we need to know if you are receiving it or have moved. It's renewal time.

May we be ready when Jesus comes--

with all the children in! --Leslie and Martha Cover

### BAPTISM

Marlin Frick      Bradford, Ohio      December 30

May God's blessings be on this dear young brother as he serves the Lord Jesus in His Kingdom.

### ----- ADDRESS CHANGE

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## OBITUARIES

MARY ANNA GIBBEL, daughter of Arthur and Treva (Hoke) Brumbaugh, was born January 6, 1925, at Potsdam, Ohio. She passed into eternity in the morning hours of October 24, 2007, at the age of 82 years, 9 months, and 18 days near Greenville, Ohio.

She was united in marriage to Jacob Gibbel of Berks County, Pennsylvania, on March 31, 1945, at her home near Potsdam, Ohio. This union was blessed with one son and two daughters.

She was baptized in 1940 into the Dunkard Brethren Church, and in later life, she and her companion affiliated with the Old Brethren Church, where they were members at the time of her passing.

They lived most of their years in Ohio, with the exception of a couple years in Berks County, PA. Later in life they lived a few years in Homestead, Florida and Collins, Mississippi.

She is survived by her husband; son Richard and his companion; daughter Dixie and her companion Duane Heisey; five grandchildren; one brother Paul Brumbaugh; one sister Miriam Beery and husband William; and many nephews and neices.

Preceding her in death were her parents; a brother David and companion Mary; a sister-in-law Mary Ellen Brumbaugh; and one infant daughter Linda, who passed away shortly after birth.

Funeral services were conducted at the Kreitzer Funeral Home, Arcanum, Ohio, and at the graveside by Neil Martin and Joe Royer. Burial was at the Mote Cemetery near Pittsburgh. Hymns 400, 484, 494, and 433 were sung at the graveside.

We commit her into the hands of our Heavenly Father.

The Family

HAZEL L. WEAVER, daughter of Henry H. Weaver and Viola (Miller) Weaver Moss, died December 9, 2007, at the home of a niece, Millersburg, Ohio. She was born at Grand Junction, Colorado, March 13, 1920. As a child, her family moved often and lived in both western and eastern Colorado. Hazel lived in Kansas briefly before moving to Ohio in 1942. She was a nurse aide at Wayne Hospital, Greenville, for 41 years. Hazel was baptized at the Cloverleaf Dunkard Brethren Church, Colorado, in 1935, and her membership was moved to the Eldorado Dunkard Brethren Church in September, 1942. In September, 1946, she became a formative member of the Primitive Dunkard Brethren Church. She became a member of the Conservative German Baptist Brethren in December of 1948. In the fall of 1996 she joined with the Old Brethren where she retained membership at death.

Survivors include two sisters, Charlotte Frick of Greenville, OH, and Arvilla and Ray Keeny of New Freedom, PA; 23 nieces and nephews; numerous great- and great great-nieces and nephews; a brother-in-law and wife, Lloyd and Catherine Keeny of Spring Grove, PA, and a sister-in-law; Betty Weaver of Lititz, PA, and many step-nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, step-father Loring I. Moss, sister Ida (Mrs. Lloyd Keeny) and two brothers, Albert Weaver and Delbert Weaver, and ten step-brothers and step-sisters.

Funeral services were held December 13, 2007, at the Old Brethren Church, Bradford, Ohio, with burial following at Wares Chapel Cemetery.

#### The Family

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Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.  
(Psalm 116:15)

DONALD FLOYD KLINE, 74, of 300 N. Washington St., Wakarusa, Indiana, died Wednesday, December 19, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor, where he was lovingly cared for for almost 18 years.

He was born April 24, 1933, to Floyd and Edyth (Upton) Kline in Modesto, California. He moved to Wakarusa, Indiana, in 1977 and continued his occupation as a cabinet maker. He was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and worked as long as health would permit.

He married Alice Holsinger on October 26, 1958, who faithfully cared for him in his illness.

He is survived by his wife; a daughter and son-in-law, Elwood and Anita Martin of Gro Ma Pou, Haiti; four grandchildren, Wendy and Jevon Helmuth, Oakland, Maryland; Travis and Christie Martin, Nappanee, Indiana; Hilary Martin, Denver, Pennsylvania; and Wyatt Martin, Nappanee; five great-grandchildren, Jesse, Kory, and Troy Helmuth; and Cameron and Julie Martin; and one sister and brother-in-law, Bonnie and Ivan Dutter of Union City, Ohio.

He was a member of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church.

A prayer service was held at the Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret-Lienhart Funeral Home on Monday, December 24. The funeral service followed at the Old German Baptist Brethren Church. Home ministry officiated with burial taking place at the Old German Baptist Brethren Church.

#### The Family

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#### FOR YOUTH

#### GIVE OF YOUR BEST TO THE MASTER

Give of your best to the Master;  
Give of the strength of your youth;  
Throw your soul's fresh, glowing ardor  
Into the battle for truth.

Jesus has set the example;  
Dauntless was He, young and brave;  
Give Him your loyal devotion,  
Give Him the best that you have.

Give of your best to the Master;  
Give Him first place in your heart;  
Give Him first place in your service;  
Consecrate every part.  
Give, and to you shall be given;  
God His beloved Son gave;  
Gratefully seeking to serve Him;  
Give Him the best that you have.

Give of your best to the Master;  
Naught else is worthy His love;  
He gave Himself for your ransom,  
Gave up His glory above;  
Laid down His life without murmur,  
You from sin's ruin to save;  
Give Him your heart's adoration,  
Give Him the best that you have.

Give of your best to the Master;  
Give of the strength of your youth;  
Clad in salvation's full armor,  
Join in the battle for truth.

H.B.G. in *Spiritual Songs and Hymns*

### Bible Quiz

Fill each blank with one word. See how many words you can supply without looking up the reference. --L.C.

1. A good name is rather to be chosen than great \_\_\_\_\_. (Proverbs 22:1)
2. We ought to obey God rather than \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 5:29)



3. For the kingdom of God is not \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. (Romans 14:17)

4. That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in \_\_\_\_\_, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; (Ephesians 3:17)

5. Let your \_\_\_\_\_ be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. (Philippians 4:5)

6. And above all these things put on \_\_\_\_\_, which is the bond of perfectness. (Colossians 3:14)

7. The heart is \_\_\_\_\_ above all things, and desperately \_\_\_\_\_: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9)

8. Thy testimonies are very sure: \_\_\_\_\_ becometh thine house, O Lord, for ever. (Psalm 93:5)

9. I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my \_\_\_\_\_. (Psalm 34:4)

10. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly \_\_\_\_\_. (Psalm 16:6)

11. For \_\_\_\_\_ is as the sin of witchcraft, and \_\_\_\_\_ is as iniquity and idolatry. (I Samuel 15:23)

12. Buy the \_\_\_\_\_, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. (Proverbs 23:23)

13. If thou faint in the day of \_\_\_\_\_, thy strength is small. (Proverbs 24:10)

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## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### Lily Wants to Go

Lily was a wee girl, just old enough to be walking. She liked people, and she liked to ride in a car.

One day a family came to her home in West Virginia. They were from Ohio. She thought they were nice.

When the visiting family got ready to go back to Ohio, the man teasingly asked her if she wanted to go along.

Of course Lily wanted to go. She did not know the man was teasing. She did not know how far Ohio was from West Virginia and Mommy and Daddy. She liked these people, and she liked to ride in a car.

The family started to leave without her. She started to cry. The man was sorry he had asked her. He tried to explain why she could not go. Lily could not understand. She was crying very hard when the family left, but she would have been more unhappy if she had gotten what she thought she wanted.

Sometimes Mom and Dad do not let you have something you think you want, but if you knew what they know, you would probably not want it so badly any more. There are some things you do not understand yet.

Did you know there are things Moms and Dads do not understand? Sometimes they want something, and they cannot understand why God does not let them have it.

They need to trust God like you need to trust Mom and Dad!

Martha J. Wagner

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Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## WE WOULD SEE JESUS

We would see Jesus--for the shadows lengthen  
Across this little landscape of our life;  
We would see Jesus, our weak faith to strengthen,  
For the last weariness--the final strife.

We would see Jesus--the great Rock Foundation,  
Whereon our feet were set by sovereign grace;  
Not life, nor death, with all their agitation,  
Can thence remove us if we see His face.

We would see Jesus--ether lights are fading,  
Which for long years we have rejoiced to see;  
The blessings of our pilgrimage are failing,  
We would not mourn them, for we go to Thee.

We would see Jesus--this is all we're needing;  
Strength, joy, and willingness come with the sight;  
We would see Jesus, dying, risen, pleading,  
Then welcome day, and farewell mortal night!

Anna B. Warner, 1858

Selected by Susie Wagner for *The Pilgrim*, June, 1977

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## NEW OLD BOOK

There is a book out that is receiving widespread distribution. It is the object of controversy in many circles, but it is praised and appreciated by both educated and unlearned men. Many find its plain statements hard to believe.

This book is not just a product of one man's thinking. In fact, it has many authors, but its expression, statistics, and histories are sanctioned by one great Editor called the Holy Spirit. This book is the Holy Bible, the Word of God.

Unlike other books, the Bible is truth from the Creator of the universe. It warns of those, especially in the last days, who will not believe this truth. We see it in our time. Peter writes of scoffers walking after their own lusts, willingly ignorant. Jesus warns of unbelievers and so do His other apostles.

However, gracious favor is promised to those who sincerely believe this book. One man desperately needing healing for his son, asked Jesus, "If thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us." Jesus then replied, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." This father cried out a prayer that we all can relate to: "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." Jesus responded with the miracle of casting out the dumb and deaf spirit from his son.

The precious reward of believing is given in John 5:24: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

What a promise! What simple but essential requirement!

D. L. Moody wrote about the Bible:

*This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its*



*histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, heaven opened, and gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a Paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in the judgment, and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents."*

Seeing we have such a treasure, we should be careful to read it diligently and daily. But to read this book is not enough. It should be studied, meditated upon, and obeyed. As the very Word of God, it should have our greatest respect. My father kept the Bibles on the top of his bookcase. I still don't like to see it buried under other books.

But we can be careful how we handle our Bibles and still come short of placing it high in our hearts. Psalm 119:11: "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee." Verse 89: "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." And verse 105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." When we enter a dark room, we switch on a light. The darkness must leave. Just so, let the Word of God dispel the darkness in our hearts. And as the moon reflects the light of the sun, may we be reflectors of this heavenly light to overcome the darkness of the world around us. About Jesus, the Word, John 1:4,5 says, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." Has this Holy Book shined in your heart? --L.C.

## CHURCH

For most of us, the word church has a threefold meaning. The first concept, and probably the least significant, is to think of church as a structure used for worship. Second concept most probably is one of the many organized groups, each of whom believe they have a special favor with God. The third concept is of the Church universal. This refers to Christians world wide.

Beliefs regarding Church affiliations vary widely. Modern travel and communication add to the complexities of church groups. I fear that a church fellowship can sometimes be regarded somewhat as a garment; we want it to meet our expectations and to be comfortable. The purpose of this writing is to stimulate our thinking regarding our relationship to the Church.

One belief that needs to be approached with care is the concept that the Church is the Ark of Safety. *Just get on the Old Ship Zion, follow the proper rules, and you will land safely in glory.*

One meaning of the word church is "assembly of religious believers." The Bible says that the Church represents the body of Christ on earth. (Col. 1:18-24). Every believer is a member of this body. Even as our physical bodies are complex and every member of the body has a purpose, likewise the body of Christ needs each member. It is difficult to explain why there are so many groups and denominations. Perhaps it is the Lord's method of maintaining workable sized congregations. Unfortunately, some believers lack the submissive virtue required to work within a congregation. These people need to be approached with compassion. (Eph. 5:21). As an orphaned child lacks the blessings of a family, in like manner the isolated Christian lacks the opportunity to experience the blessings of a Church family.

Extreme attitudes regarding church fellowship must be avoided. A serious thought to consider is this: often as more emphasis is placed on church structure and rules, there is a danger of placing less emphasis on the Lord Jesus Christ. Here is where wisdom must be exercised. Our simple, plain life style must be a manifestation of the Holy Spirit, not merely a mandate of church authority. Our challenge is to be a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. We must tell of His atonement and proclaim the rewards of righteousness. We must let our attire, our life style, and our relationships reflect the workings of the Holy Spirit. It is important that we identify with a church group. Each believing Christian is a part of the body of Christ which is the Church.

Joseph E. Wagner  
Modesto, California

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### REFLECTIONS ON MUSIC

Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD. (Psalm 150)

This psalm informs the Old Testament saints why they should praise the Lord, how they should praise the Lord, and who should praise the Lord. The final psalm's emphasis on



praising the Lord is a fitting doxology to the book of psalms. Of special interest to us are the musical instruments they employed to praise the Lord.

In this psalm we have stringed, percussion, and wind instruments. While the harp, organ, and stringed instruments may present an impression of worship, what about trumpets, high sounding or even loud symbols? Visualize worship with the timbrel that is struck on the knee or palm to produce sound while the players are dancing. (Ex. 15:20) Was all this noise and dancing worship? Are we omitting something that could enhance our worship?

Was God pleased with Old Testament worship? (See II Chron. 29:25: And he set the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet: for so was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets.) Clearly, God prescribed the way the Old Testament saints worshiped. God prearranged the tabernacle and the order in it. Reading all of chapter 29 gives us a clue how Old Testament worship depended on body and soul.

The five senses are gateways to our soul, stirring our soul with feeling. Seeing the grandeur of the temple (the gold, brass, silver, white linen, and the high priests' robes with gold chains and costly stones) was a sight that overwhelmed the soul. Solomon's assent to the glorious temple impressed the queen of Sheba. She was overwhelmed by what her senses experienced. Herod's temple awed the disciples, and they tried to impress Jesus with its glory. They were awed by their sense of seeing and responded in worship. (Lu. 21:5)

The smell of incense, sacrifices, and the special perfume of the priest gave a feeling of worship; it smelled like a place of worship. The sense of touch became involved as you laid your very own hand on the goat slain for your sin offering, feeling the body shudder and die. The Passover lamb and other



offerings were eaten and so the sense of taste was involved. All five senses were involved in arousing the soul to worship. Instrumental music was part of Old Testament worship, involving the hearing sense. (II Chron. 29:27-30)

In the New Testament (John 4) Jesus tells the woman at the well that the time has come when true worshippers must worship the Father in spirit and truth. She was much more comfortable in discussing the correct place of worship than facing truth. Jesus is telling her and us that true worship is no longer dependant on temples (that is, sights, smells, tastes, feelings, and sounds) but on truth (our spirits connecting with the Spirit of God and agreeing with His truth.)

A great example is found in Paul and Silas when they were whipped and imprisoned. None of their five senses prodded their souls to worship. They felt only pain; prisons did not smell good; they may have heard rats and mice; they had not food to taste; and light would only reveal walls, chains, and locks. However, they had God's truth, and truth stirred them to worship in prayer and singing praises. This is genuine worship inspired by the Spirit, and the Father seeks such to worship Him. (John. 4:23)

The danger in worship inspired by the senses is that it may well mollify the soul at variance with truth. The woman at the well sought some measure of rightness by connecting with a physical site of worship in spite of the fact that she lived in adultery. Pilate pacified his guilty soul with the sensation of water on his hands in a cleansing ritual. Saul, plagued by an evil spirit, found David's music soothing to his soul, a soul that never again connected with truth and ended his life in self-murder. In the prophet's message to Israel, he says they have invented to themselves the instruments of David. Did musical instruments give these people a sensation of worship, of being right with God when their heart was far from God's truth? (Amos 6:5) Feelings of worship can be aroused by tasting,

touching, smelling, seeing, and hearing when the soul is far from truth. Instrumental music can give us a mood of worship even though we are not connected with the truth of God's word. Instrumental music (without the lyrics) is not morally neutral; it carries a message that affects us. Do you sense the message when attending a funeral and only the organ is playing? Have you been to a wedding where the same organ was played? Is the organ music of itself communicating messages?

Heathen in their worship also use musical instruments. Nebuchadnezzar used music as an integral part of his plan to get the whole world to fall at his feet. The music conveyed a message. Music has been used commercially for some time. Employers have used it with some success in setting a faster pace for their workers. Retailers play music to give customers a careless, spendthrift feeling. Music has been used throughout history to bolster armies and intimidate enemies. Again, music of and by itself carries a message; just listen to the beat of drums and feel the urge to march!

Yes, instrumental music does affect us. Is it wrong to play an instrument of music? Have you ever drummed on an empty bucket or banged on pots and pans? Did it do something for the music in your heart? The caution would be; what are we trying to express or suppress?

We do find music in nature: a walk through the woods while the birds sing, sitting beside a laughing brook, or the lapping waves on the sea shore will all soothe a man's soul. However, it becomes perilous when the soul is calmed with nature's music instead of coming to an agreement with the Creator's truth. Remember, heaven and earth will pass away, but truth endures forever! (I Peter 1:24,25)

What about vain repetition in a cappella music? This reminds me of the little chorus, *Oh Lord I Thank Thee*. The words "I thank Thee" are repeated eleven times in this verse with very little else being sung. Jesus said we will not be heard for saying

it repeatedly. After all, God knows our needs and thoughts.

Does our music (the beat and tempo) present the truth clearly? Is it easily understood? For example, the lyrics are often not discernible in classical music, hampering the message of truth. Another example would be the Gregorian chant sung so slowly the lyrics are not grasped.

Our souls may well need soothing at times; let's make sure it is not at the expense of truth. The soul consists of the mind, the will, the intellect, and the emotions of a man. It is impossible to determine where the body or the spirit of man stops and the soul starts. However, we can determine which is emphasized in our music. For example, country-western style music often emphasizes the emotions.

In classical music, the emphasis is on the intellect. This has a heavy appeal to the soul of man. We are often thrilled that it is possible for men and women to give such a splendid performance. It is said that when the awe-inspiring "Hallelujah Chorus" in Handel's *Messiah* was first performed in a theater attended by King George II, he was so overwhelmed with the rendering that he rose to his feet. Was he impressed with truth? Or was his soul impressed with the intelligence and skills it took to perform the piece?

Our music needs to be the musings of a truthful heart. It needs to amplify the Word, not drown it out. Our music should enhance truth instead of fogging it up. Do you think Saul would have found the psalms of David comforting instead of the music from his harp? Is it not a joy that we use only our voices in praise to God in our meetings, singing hymns grounded in truth?

Recently we attended a funeral. As we entered the imposing sanctuary, music from a lyre-type instrument virtually wept into the mourner's ears. The ceremonially robed pastor stood and pointing out the largest of three candles burning before the



casket, solemnly explained that only at the birth, confirmation and death of a man was this special candle lit.

The pastor and congregation then chanted several liturgies; a prayer, intoned by the pastor ended this part of the worship experience. Somberly the casket, preceded by the candles, was carried to the waiting hearse. As we left the sanctuary, the stringed instrument once again played, but this time the music suggested that we had indeed now been comforted.

There was a perception of worship that seemed so real. Yet, where was the call to truth? There was no call to repentance. We had not been provoked to reflect on past actions. (The woman at the well said, "Come see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?") There was no effort to connect us to the Spirit of truth. Instead, our senses had been played upon, subtly quieting the urgings of the Spirit to connect with the truth of life, death, judgment, and eternity.

When we gather in the name of Christ, we can't leave our bodies and souls at home. We need our voice box and lungs to sing. We need our mind, will, emotions, and intellect to worship. However, when we put the heavier emphasis on body and soul, our spirit loses connection with truth.

I am thankful that there are those times in our meeting when emotions are evident. There is the peace I see in the face of forgiven and forgiving sinners, relief in the eyes of the unburdened, and a tear sliding down a repentant cheek. Not all of these are the result of the soul impressed by the senses but the effect of truth impressed on the soul by the Spirit, which then brings worship and praise into our meeting.

May Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, impress our spirits anew with the ending note to the Psalms: "Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD, praise ye the LORD!"

Galen Miller, Bourbon, Indiana



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth."

The meaning of this verse was made evident to me, recently, in the form of 55 birthday cards. The well wishes, encouragements, letters, wisdom, gifts and love meant so much. We appreciate all your prayers and support. Thank you and may God bless you.

Gary, Hannah, and Alyssa Miller  
Marble Falls, Arkansas

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ELECTIONS

The Yellow Creek Old Brethren held an election on January 27. Joe Royer and Daniel Beery were both ordained to the Eldership. They serve with support of their companions, Elizabeth Royer and Miriam Beery. Thad Coning was elected and installed in the first degree of ministry and is supported by his wife Suzanne. Sam Royer was elected and installed in the office of deacon and serves with the support of his wife Rosanna. May God bless the service of these couples. May they be faithful to the charges given to them.

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Address Book Change

Chris Crawmer - New telephone number: (209) 343-4168

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BIRTH

FLORY - A daughter, Jennifer Hope, born February 6 to Duane and Gayle Flory of Jasper, Arkansas.

## HISTORICAL

A letter from John Naas telling of his journey of the New World  
Continued from last issue.

On the 17th a small land bird, which they call the little yellow wag-tail in Germany, perched down several times on our ship, so the people could have a good look at him. This caused great rejoicing among them, and they clapped their hands with joy.

On the 18th a ship from Rhode Island came up to us. It had a cargo of sheep and other things, in order to sail to the West Indies, which our Captain spoke through a speaking tube; after they had made their arrangements they reefed their sails on both the ships, since there was little running anyhow and our Captain had a boat lowered into the water and rowed with four seaman to their ship. When they had drunk the welcome together, he returned and brought with him half a bag of apples, a goose, a duck, and two chickens and distributed the beautiful apples at once among the people. That caused great rejoicing to get such beautiful American apples on the high sea, and those which were still left over he threw among the people to grapple for them, and they fell in heaps over one another for the beautiful apples.

On the 19th, a strange looking fish came upon the ship. It was shaped like a large, round table and had a mouth like two little shallow baskets. The same evening a large number of big fish came from the north towards our ship, and when they had reached the ship they shot down into the deep, in front, behind and under the ship, so that one could not see one any more on the other side of the ship.

On the 20th again a young married woman died and was buried at sea the same night, and on this evening again came a large number of countless big fish from the north which one

could see from high above the water and which did just like the former, that one could not see one on the other side of the ship. Thereupon we had a very heavy fall of rain that some people caught half kegs of water, only from the sails and from the Captain's cabin. This was followed by a powerful windstorm from the northwest. The sea rose up so high, that when one looked into it, it was just as if one were sailing among high mountains all covered with snow; and one mountain-wave rose over the other and over the ship so that the Captain and First Mate and the Cook were struck by a wave that they kept not a dry thread on them; and so much water poured into the ship that many people's beds, which were near to the holes were quite filled with water. The holes were hastily boarded up, the rudder bound fast, and the ship was, with a very lowly-reefed sail set sideways to the wind, so that it should not roll so hard on both sides. The storm lasted the entire night with great violence, so that without any fear one could well see that it was not alone the seaworthiness of the ship that it could weather such powerful blows, but that it was preserved in the Almighty hand of the Lord, in order to make known to man His might. (to be continued)

To Him be above all and for all the glory, Amen.

from Brumbaugh's *A History of the Brethren*

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Are all the children in--

The night is falling.

The night of death is hastening on apace;

The Lord is calling.

Enter thou thy chamber and tarry there a space.

And when He comes, the King in all His glory,

Who died the shameful death our hearts to win,

Oh, may the gates of heaven shut about us

With all the children in.

--Elizabeth Roosen

## FOR YOUTH

### The Stowaway

Many years ago a small steamer got into a terrible storm in the South Atlantic Ocean. For three days the ship tossed and tumbled in the mighty waves. One mast was carried away, and the rudder was damaged. The evening of the third day, the storm increased and the sky became blacker than ever. The poor sailors realized that it would become even worse, as the thunder crashed over them. The alarm was raised; the ship had sprung a leak!

Quickly the pumps were started, but the water was rising faster than it could be pumped out. Working desperately for an hour, the sailors saw it was hopeless, and the ship was sinking. The captain ordered the life-boats to be lowered. Then they discovered that there was only one boat that had not been damaged by the storm. All they could do was try to get the entire crew into the one boat.

Very soon the men climbed in, filling the boat, with barely room left for the captain. He had waited for last, and just as he was ready to step over the side and climb down the ladder, he heard a cry. There running towards him was a strange young boy, dirty-faced and dressed in rags. He was a stowaway.

Where he had hidden and kept himself alive, the captain did not know, but there was no time to ask. "Quick," he shouted, stepping back, "Down the ladder!" The boy was over the side and into the boat in a minute, taking the last few inches of space. "Come on!" shouted the men to the captain, willing to overload the boat rather than leave their captain behind. "Push off" yelled the captain, knowing that one more would certainly cause the boat to upset and bring death to them all. So the men pushed off and were hardly a safe distance from the ship when it



turned on its side and disappeared into the sea taking the noble captain to his ocean grave.

After many days of suffering, the men in the life-boat were picked up by a passing ship and finally reached home again. But the stowaway never forgot the captain's sacrifice for him. The memory of that heroic deed changed his life. In his pocket he carried the captain's picture, to which he would point as he told and retold the story, "He gave his life for me."

And that is what Jesus has done for each one of us. Jesus is the captain; we are the stowaways. We do not deserve to be saved. Just as the stowaway enjoyed telling what the captain did for him, we should be glad to tell others what Jesus has done for us. We, too, can say, "He died for me."

Author unknown

From the *Exchange Messenger*

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### CHILDREN'S PAGE

#### The Man Who Changed His Course

Once there was a man who thought he should hurt the Christians and be unkind to them in order to serve God. The Christians were really God's people, but he didn't know it. This man put them in prison, threatened them, and even killed them because they believed in Jesus. Once he travelled to Damascus to hunt for more believers.

Suddenly Jesus appeared to him so brightly that he was struck blind. Jesus asked him why he was hurting His people, and told him he must change his ways. He sent him to a Christian in Damascus to learn what he must do.

This man received his sight and was baptized. He changed his course and became a great worker for the cause of Jesus. He even wrote some of the books of the New Testament.

Who was this man?

Fill in the blanks and find the answer.

1. And he fell to the earth, and heard a \_\_\_\_\_ saying unto him, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, why persecutest thou me? (Acts 9:17)
2. . . .Brother \_\_\_\_\_, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy \_\_\_\_\_, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. (Acts 9:17)
3. Read Acts 13:9 to find out both his names. --L.C.

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And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. (I Cor. 15:8-10)

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# THE PILGRIM

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## COME TO CALVARY

Come to Calvary's holy mountain,  
Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain  
Flows to you, to me, to all,  
In a full perpetual tide,  
Opened when our Saviour died.

Come in sorrow and contrition,  
Wounded, impotent and blind:  
Here the guilty, free remission,  
Here the troubled, peace may find;  
Health the fountain will restore,  
He who drinks shall thirst no more.

He who drinks shall live forever,  
'Tis a soul-renewing flood;  
God is faithful, God will never  
Break His covenant in blood;  
Signed when our Redeemer died,  
Sealed when He was glorified.

*From Spiritual Hymns*

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## SCARS

Scars are ugly. Yet sometimes what they represent is beautiful, especially the scars of our Saviour. Fanny Crosby has written: "I shall know Him by the print of the nails in His hands." Peter wrote, "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious. . ." He is precious to us for what He suffered for us, and this is shown by the scars in His hands, His feet, His side. The absence of these scars would nullify any claim to be the Messiah.

Scars reveal where one was injured and healed. Deep physical scars never go away. Warriors of old time like David's famous thirty-three must have boasted many battle scars. Scars, in fact, might be proof of bravery. Soldiers are trained to expect casualties but still be obedient to their captain, regardless of danger.

Quoting from an article in the *BRF Witness* by Tom Zuercher: "Consider this image: The new recruit that has just gotten off the bus for boot camp. The angry sergeant approaches with a loud voice, 'From this day forward, you belong to me. I will tell you when to stand and when to sit, when to get up and when to sleep, when to stop and when to run. You will not do anything unless I tell you, and when I tell you, you will do everything I say.' There is a specific process in place that turns the raw recruit into a fighting soldier, and when that process is complete, there is total obedience. The soldier will follow orders. In the midst of conflict, the soldier will obey orders without question. There is total unity, so that there can be great strength in the face of the enemy." (From an article on unity, this passage shows why an army can be successful, and the importance of obedience in conflict.)



The possibility of injury to his soldiers is a risk a leader must take to win. There may be wounds and resulting scars. But what are they compared to total victory?

There are spiritual scars as well as physical; Paul had both. He wrote in Galatians 6:17: "From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." These were physical scars, but they represented his suffering for Jesus' sake. Read in II Corinthians 11:23-33 of his stoning, his stripes, his five beatings with rods, and other difficulties for Jesus. Paul received an ugly spiritual scar when he persecuted the church and consented to the stoning of Stephen. This kind of scar does not show victory.

What about us? Have we any "marks of the Lord Jesus"? Are we in the battle? Have we learned to obey exactly when in the heat of conflict with the enemy? Jesus doesn't treat us like the sergeant did, but His power--His authority--is infinitely greater. The stakes are higher. We must win! It may mean some battle scars.

Sadly, there are ugly scars from spiritual battles--scars of resentment and anger, of guilt and shame. Sometimes children are scarred through no fault of their own and remain cripples for life. But Jesus in His mercy can heal these scars and make us new creatures if we ask Him.

Battles can strengthen us--at least when we win. Experience can give wisdom. When we use the weapons God has provided, we can overcome and survive unscathed. Usually though, we receive marks that are evidence of conflict. We don't need to be ashamed of these scars if we have obediently followed our Saviour's example.

Will you be a soldier for Christ? First you must seek Him and know that He loves you. He wants you for His own. He has invested His blood and tears in our salvation. Truly, *we are bought with a price and we are not our own*. We follow our Captain, obey His orders and feel His protection.

In training to live for Christ, we learn submission. How could submission contribute to victory? After all, a soldier is to be strong and in control. But God assures us that His ways are not our ways. Lack of submission to God and one another has been the reason for defeat in many conflicts. But what victory! What reward, when we study and use the methods Jesus taught in His sublime sermon on the mount! We don't need to be ashamed of any scars received while obeying Him.

But many times following Jesus has brought scars of persecution. Paul boasted of these kinds of scars. Amy Carmichael wrote:

### NO SCAR?

Hast thou no scar?  
No hidden scar on foot, or side, or hand?  
I hear thee sung as mighty in the land,  
I hear them hail thy bright ascendant star,  
Hast thou no scar?

Hast thou no wound?  
Yet I was wounded by the archers, spent,  
Leaned me against a tree to die; and rent  
By ravening wolves that compassed me, I swooned:  
Hast thou no wound?

No wound? no scar?  
Yet, as the Master shall the servant be,  
And pierced are the feet that follow Me;  
But thine are whole: can he have followed far  
Who hath no wound nor scar?

There is a cause today. Let us not fear but trust our great Commander who knows the way and preserves us through any danger. L.C.

## THE HEART

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10)

A healthy body is dependant on a healthy heart. When the heart is weak or irregular the body suffers. In a spiritual or an emotional sense this is also true. Most of the Bible's uses of the word *heart* pertain to the inner directive of man. One writer defined the Biblical use of the word *heart* thus; "It is the center of the entire men, the very heart of life's impulse." We are concerned with this emotional or spiritual heart.

For some time I have not felt well because of not being able to maintain a proper heart rhythm. Likewise, when the emotional heart is out of rhythm with God's order, a person is troubled. It is sad to see so much trouble in today's society resulting from sick, inner emotional hearts. What throws this inner heart out of rhythm?

With the physical heart, arrhythmia is the result of improper action of nerve signals. This can be aggravated by disease and aging. Medical science has done much to prevent and correct these erratic signals. The inner emotional heart is also affected by improper signals. The most effective way to prevent bad signals from affecting the heart is to block these sick signals and send healthy signals to override the bad ones. Bad signals result from undisciplined desire. This can lead to selfishness and pride. Lust is a devastating emotional signal. The prophet Jeremiah states: "The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked." (Jeremiah 17:8) This describes a hardened heart.

A sick physical heart may fail to give life to the body. The hardened heart fails to issue forth good virtues. God created man and woman to extend as well as to receive love. The Bible says God is love. Therefore a person after God's own heart is one who manifests this virtue. When the heart receives selfish

and lustful signals, it stifles this output. This leads to a hardened heart. Nothing is worse than a hardened, sinful heart. As medical science is able to correct an impaired, physical heart, the Lord has provided the means to cure the spiritual heart. When the physical heart fails, the body suffers. When the spiritual heart fails the spiritual man suffers.

Jesus suffered so all those who call on Him can have healing from a sin-sick heart.

Oh, for a heart to love my God!

A heart from sin set free;

A heart that always feels the blood

So freely shed for me.

Joseph E. Wagner

Modesto, California

---

### WHY SPEED?

He cut in on me in passing. I was doing about fifty. A miss of several inches in a half second and he was ahead and away.

Praise the Lord! Not for me this time the crash, the siren's wail and a ride in an ambulance to morgue or hospital.

Precious Guide! Blessed Guide!

Without Thee we dare not ride.

Many of the fathers of the last century feared the change that brought speed and its possibilities to a race of lost men. Knowing well the fallen nature of man, they sensed and foretold the dangers of a world geared to high speed. Accidents were deplored in those days. Many people seldom went more than a few miles from home.

Speed has done much to us. We calmly do 50, 60, or more while busily planning on what to do when we "get there." Miles relate to minutes in today's talk. Babies are zoomed to the hospitals for birth and corpses sped to the graveyard for burial.



Air pilots point out the long lines of tortuous highway traffic beneath. Our overcrowded wonder spots lose their charm and beauty. Long lines of railroad auto carriers mean more cars piling up behind the slow driver. Children sick of it all beg to stay home. Youth questions the reasons and purpose for life itself.

What are we getting out of it? And what of the future? Depleted natural resources? Oil slick and dead fish? Polluted oceans, streams, and air too? Higher taxes for man's "inch" in space? More incinerated astronauts? Is this the dilemma to which we are hurrying?

But speed can mean a far different thing to the Christian whose times are in the Lord's hands.

Lot in fleeing from wicked Sodom was told, "Haste and look not back." "Haste to depart from evil," said the wise man. "Flee youthful lusts." Speed away as Joseph did from evil. Over and over we are warned to make a fast and clean break with sin.

However, a Christian is not to be thought of as someone devoted to running away from things. Our Lord has given us a task to perform. To us is committed a ministry of reconciliation of lost sinners to Christ. Multitudes about us are speeding to a miserable hell. Only the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ can save their souls. As a fireman to the blaze, or the life boat to the sinking ship, we must haste to the need of the lost and the dying. This is not an occasional emergency. This is an every day and night need.

"The word of God is quick and powerful, sharper than any two edged sword." It is only as we are diligent in using it that we can expect results in souls won for Christ.

Christians in Paul's day wished each other good speed in their daily ministries and living for Christ. On land or sea their speed was seldom faster than a walk. And yet untold thousands of miles were covered in the spread of the Gospel. In this

ministry many became Christ's pilgrims with no homes of their own.

God only knows how much effort it has taken to bring the life-giving Gospel down through the centuries to us, or the price paid in blood and tears, of sweat and exhaustion and lives freely given in service to Christ that others might drink from this well of Salvation.

It is now our turn to minister its truth to the needy, lost souls about us. Ours also to pass this torch of light to youthful hands for further spread and the nurture of those of tender years. We too must imitate our blessed Lord who came to seek and save the lost. They are all about us.

Good speed, my brother and sister in this marvelous ministry.

James D. Cover

From *The Pilgrim*, January, 1973

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### FLEETING TIME

With measured beat of week and day,  
The hastening moments fly,  
And mortal life will soon give way,  
No matter what we try.

Time marches on, our fleeting span,  
Will swiftly fly away.  
We cannot stop, for 'tis God's plan  
For feeble, faltering clay.

Soon youth must pass into old age,  
And strength and vigor fade,  
And life will pass like turning page;  
This body soon decayed.

And is it just a fleeting dream  
That matters not at last?  
Or is time more than it would seem?  
What then? when it is past?

No! 'tis not vain! for when we die,  
To judgement we will go.  
And then to heaven or hell we'll fly,  
Because God tells us so.

So use your time while still you may,  
For swift the moments fly.  
Now yield to God and live His way,  
Ere you are called to die.

James Beery  
Williamsport, Indiana

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## HISTORICAL

*The following selection from Life and Labors of Elder John Kline is part of the introductory sermon to the Yearly Meeting of 1837 by Elder George Hoke of Ohio.*

Text: "And it came to pass, that while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them." (Luke 24:15)

We readily enough, at the start, inquire who they were that communed and reasoned together. This we never can know with certainty until the scales of mortality drop from our eyes. One, we are told, was Cleopas by name. It may have been the same Cleopas whose wife had stood by the cross. Some think

the other was Luke, the writer of the Evangel, whom Paul calls the beloved physician.

Slowly and sadly, with crushed hopes and broken hearts, these two loving disciples of our Lord were wending their way from the scenes of confusion that had attended His crucifixion in Jerusalem to a quiet little village called Emmaus about eight miles distant. Here, at least, they hoped to find exemption from the taunts and sneers of the infatuated mob in the city, whose mutterings were still to be heard in the distance, like those of a cyclone that has done its work.

The particular point in their conversation is not stated, but it is included in the general topic which is given as "the things which have happened in Jerusalem concerning Jesus of Nazareth." The imagination here finds scope to multiply themes without limit on which they could reason and over which they could be sad.

At this very point of time, just when despair like darkness at the close of an evening twilight had settled down upon the entire landscape of their mental sight, "Jesus himself drew near. . . But their eyes were holden that they should not know him." This simple statement has more than once caused "smiles in tears," smiles at the half playfulness of Jesus talking to these two beloved disciples as a tender father sometimes talks to his little children; and tears at the condescending love of Christ our God and Lord, walking as a wayfaring man with two of His heartbroken creatures. Can you take this in and not look up into His face smiling through your tears?

And then He said, "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" This very sentence, by which He shed the first rays of light upon the dark waters of their storm-beaten bosoms, tells the whole tale of Christ's redeeming love. The cross and crown! Joy of earth and bliss of heaven! The cross of dishonor; the crown of glory! The cross of death; the crown of life!



But their eyes were holden that they should not know Him. He came as the divine Word. He is the truth and life of the Word; for "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." Though they knew not that it was He, still their hearts did burn within them as He opened unto them the scriptures. "Beginning at Moses. . . He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." They do not tell us the passages He quoted and explained, but it is believed we have them all in our Bibles. I think it is evident we have all the Scriptures now that were extant then; and it is our great privilege to hunt up for ourselves and others these broken pieces of the Bread of Life.

The word *holden* means simply, *held back, restrained*. For wise reasons He held back the sight of their eyes that they should not know Him. Had they known Him at first sight, it would have interfered with and prevented the accomplishment of His gracious purpose to make Himself known in the "breaking of bread." In this very act He has taught His people one of the most precious lessons in all the Christian's experiences. He is the Bread of eternal Life. His whole Word is but one great loaf, and He is that loaf. And how my soul quivers with the thought that if we invite Him in as these loving disciples did, and ask Him to abide with us, He will take a seat with us at table, and break unto us the Bread of Life. Our spiritual eyes will be opened, and we shall joyfully know Him. Then will

Our hearts grow warm with heavenly fire  
And kindle with a pure desire,  
While our blest Savior from above  
Feeds all our souls with holy love.

None but those: "that know the Lord, and taste the sweetness of His Word" can ever know the joys of His salvation.

---

Don't find fault; find a remedy. -Sel.

## OBITUARY

VIOLA MAY WOLF was born July 5, 1909, in Quinter, Kansas, to David and Elsie (Crist) Wolf. The family moved to Sheridan Lake, Colorado, in 1910 and in 1913 moved back to Quinter. They moved to Modesto, California, in 1916 where they lived until 1918 when they moved to Rio Oso, California, where they were engaged in farming. In 1942, Viola moved with her parents to Modesto, California, where they resided on Dakota Avenue. It was here that she spent the majority of her life, living with her mother and sister Ruth. She did housework for local families and devoted a large portion of her time helping care for Ruth.

After the death of her mother, she and Ruth moved to Gettysburg and Greenville, Ohio, where she lived from 1982 until 1995.

She returned to Modesto in the fall of 1995. After years of caring for others, the time came when she could no longer care for herself, and in April of 2002 she moved to Bethany Home in Ripon, California.

Recognizing her need of a Savior, Viola was baptized at a young age and became a member of the Old Order German Baptist Church and began a life of obedience and service to God. In 1984, while living in Ohio, she became a member of the Old Brethren Church where she continued to serve her Lord until her death.

Viola enjoyed attending church services whenever possible and traveled many times to the mountains to attend church and visit her friends and relatives there. She always enjoyed having guests and sharing conversation and a home-cooked meal. She also enjoyed growing African violets, reading, and tending to the canaries and the parakeets. Viola passed away peacefully at Bethany Home on February 19, 2008, at the age of 98 years,

7 months, and 14 days. She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Charles Wolf; and one sister, Ruth Wolf.

She is survived by one brother, Joseph; two nieces in Ohio: Edna Mae Thomas and her husband Bob; and Mary Ruth Strike and her husband Lloyd; and two nephews in California: Dave Wolf and his wife Jan, and Don Wolf and his wife Gaye.

Viola lived a life of sacrifice and service to God and to others. We will often remember her caring attitude, her perseverance, and her reliance on God for strength and companionship.

The service for Viola was held February 26, at Salas Brothers Chapel in Modesto with an opening by Elder Lloyd Wagner, message by Elder Joseph Cover, and a cemetery service by Elder Gordon Rumble. Songs at the service were "Sweet Hour of Prayer" and "Jerusalem My Happy Home," and at the cemetery, "How Great Thou Art," "It Is Well With My Soul," "There Is a Happy Land," "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," "I'll Fly Away," and "There Is a God." Burial was in the Wood Colony Cemetery, Modesto.

### The Family

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### BAPTISM

Mike Frederick                      Modesto, California    March 2

God bless this dear brother as he leads his family and serves the Lord Jesus Christ in His Kingdom.

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### BIRTH

COVER - A daughter, Krista Lynnae, born March 6 to Peter and Denita Cover of Tuolumne, California.

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If children find encouragement in the home, they will not have to seek it elsewhere.                      --From a reader

## FOR YOUTH

## FAITH AND SIGHT

The path of all my future days  
Enshrouded lies in mist;  
Fog rolls in, clammy, cold, and gray,  
Hides every turn and twist.

"I want to see! I want to know!"  
My anxious spirit cries.  
My heart loathes such uncertainty;  
I want to know! "Lord, why?"

"Why can't I see what lies ahead  
In every future day?  
I'd find it easier far to trust  
If I but knew the way!"

"Why then, I'd choose more knowingly  
Each step that I should take;  
I could avoid the tears and pain;  
No more my heart would break."

But hope, once seen's no hope at all;  
And faith comes not with sight.  
My Father wants my whole-souled trust  
In blackest gloom of night

He wants my faith to cling to Him  
When knowing is denied;  
To work a strength that comes forth true  
When in grief's furnace tried.



More valuable than easy smile  
Of golden, carefree hour,  
Is faith that clings and trusts Him still  
When I can't feel His power.

My Father, grant to me the faith  
When heaviest sorrows roll,  
To trust that You are working out  
Your likeness in my soul.

Help me to follow step by step  
As You point out the road,  
Content to know that You know best,  
And You will choose my load.

Susanna Tate  
Mishawaka, Indiana

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## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### Viola and Ruth

Most of you children probably do not remember Viola and Ruth Wolf. They were sisters.

Ruth was physically handicapped. She could not walk by herself or talk clearly enough for most people to understand. Often Viola could tell you what Ruth was trying to say. Sometimes we guessed until we got it right. Sometimes we never understood. That would be hard to bear, I think, but still she was glad to see us and usually had a great big smile for everybody.

She also loved to sing, though really she couldn't. She just moaned along softly as best she could. I thought about all the

people who won't sing because they "can't," and decided she was one of the best singers ever! She didn't mess up the singing. Most people didn't even hear her. But God heard, and I think He was pleased. He didn't say we must sing well. He just told us to sing. It glorifies Him and is healthy for us! It lifts our spirits.

Viola was twelve years older than Ruth. She helped care for Ruth from the time Ruth was born till the day Ruth died at sixty-six years old.

Once a young man wanted to marry Viola, but he said it was either him or Ruth. He did not want to have his wife caring for an invalid sister. Viola chose to take care of Ruth. She never married. That was sacrificial love, don't you think?

Jesus had even greater sacrificial love for us! He died so that we could live. Yes! Jesus loves us!

Martha J. Wagner  
Gettysburg, Ohio

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## WE WOULD SEE JESUS

"Sir, we would see Jesus." --John 12:21

"We would see Jesus," for the shadows lengthen  
Across the little landscape of our life;  
We would see Jesus, our weak faith to strengthen  
For the last conflict in this mortal strife.

"We would see Jesus," Rock of our salvation,  
Whereon our feet were set with sovereign grace;  
Not life, nor death, with all their agitation,  
Can thence remove us, gazing on His face.

"We would see Jesus;" other lights are paling,  
Which for long years we did rejoice to see;  
The blessings of this sinful world are failing;  
We would not mourn them, in exchange for Thee.

"We would see Jesus;" this is all we're needing,  
Strength, joy, and willingness come with the sight;  
We would see Jesus, dying, risen, pleading,  
Soon to return and end this mortal night!

--Anna B. Warner

Selected from *Christ in Song*

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## COUNT THE COST

Standing uncertainly before the display of baseball equipment, the young boy counted and recounted the small sum of cash in his hands. He had emptied his bank and brought all his coins. Is it enough? Should he give the whole amount of his cash on hand for the baseball he has been watching in the store window?

Now his decision is made. He lays his money on the counter and indicates his choice to the clerk. As the checker counts the money, he seizes his prize and goes happily on his way. He had enough money--just barely--and the ball was worth giving it all. You can't play baseball with pennies and dimes.

Scenes like this occur over and over. We make decisions and count costs almost daily. Is it worth the sacrifice? Can we afford it? Often the cost is not in dollars, and sometimes it is difficult to make the decision. In this era of materialism, we buy and sell and become quite proficient at weighing earthly values. We know what things should be worth. And we don't like to pay more than an item should cost--or to sell for too little. And we certainly don't want to risk all our assets on a questionable venture.

Counting the cost and weighing values also enters into spiritual decisions. Jesus told two parables in Luke 14 about this deciding:

*"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,*



*Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. (vs. 28-30)*

*"Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace." (vs. 31,32)*

Jesus concludes: *"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."*

Previously, He had pronounced the blessings of the Kingdom of Heaven. He had promised them His protection and rewards surpassing anything earthly. He had assured them that this Kingdom would endure. Now He reminds that there is a cost. To participate in the blessings of the heavenly, we must renounce the earthly. To be a disciple of Jesus we must regard Him above father, mother, children, brethren and sisters and even our own lives.

Great multitudes were following Jesus when He told these parables. He was saying, in effect, "Do you have what it takes to follow me? And are you willing to forsake all that you have to be my disciple?" "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." (v. 27)

Clearly, we could by no means pay for God's free gift of eternal life (like the boy who bought his baseball.) It isn't for sale. Even if it were, we would not have enough to pay. And what do we have that God needs? He needs none of our possessions; He only wants us. But still there is a cost. It isn't that we pay God. But there is something to forsake, and that is the cost to us.

Perhaps it is similar to the marriage vow. To have the enduring love of one companion we must forsake all others. This is not a price paid to the companion, but it is a forsaking that must be made. It isn't even hard to do, considering the

benefits involved. But it *must* be done. Otherwise there can be no peace, love, and happiness in the married life. Would we say that we were able to purchase the love of our companions? Never!

Another illustration: Imagine a young man whose wealthy uncle offered to pay his way to the best medical school so he could become a doctor. To take advantage of this offer, he would have to leave his comfortable home situation and his friends and devote himself to his studies. He would need to give up his other plans for a vocation; he would miss some of his hobbies, sports, and fun to have this privilege to study and learn the skills and knowledge of the medical profession. This cost to him is not the tuition price; that has been paid. But there are sacrifices the young man must make to accomplish his purpose and take advantage of his uncle's generosity. We can see that even though his way was paid, his own failure to make these necessary sacrifices would disqualify him for this opportunity.

Jesus told one wealthy man, *"One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross and follow me: (Mark 10:21)* On the same occasion He told His disciples, *"Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."* (Mark 10:29,30)

Have we counted the cost? Do we have enough with which to build? Are we ready to forsake all that we have? Are we ready to bear the cross, leave the world, and follow Jesus? We simply cannot do this alone; at every turn we need God. And He has promised to help us and give us eternal life.

You can't play baseball with pennies and dimes. And neither can we keep our sins and our selfishness and love of the world--and follow the Master. --L.C.

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### THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST

More than 1900 years ago there was a man born contrary to the laws of life. . .

This man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity.

He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which He lived; that was during His exile in childhood.

He possessed neither wealth no influence.

His relatives were inconspicuous, and had neither training nor formal education.

In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon the billows as if pavements, hushed the sea to sleep.

He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His service.

He never wrote a song and yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all the songwriters combined.

He never founded a college but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students.

He never marshaled an army nor drafted soldiers nor fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under His orders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot fired.

He never practiced psychiatry and yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near.

Once each week the wheels of commerce cease their turning and the multitudes wend their way to worshipping assemblies to pay homage and respect to Him.

The names of the past proud statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone. The names of the past scientists, philosophers, and theologians have come and gone; but the name of this man abounds more and more.

Though time has spread nineteen hundred years between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet He lives.

Herod could not destroy Him and the grave could not hold Him!

He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory proclaimed of God, acknowledged by Angels, adored by saints and feared by devils, as a living, personal Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We are either going to be forever with Him or forever without Him. . .

In conclusion, whatever you are considering as the focus of life, Christ is better. He is the perfect revelation of God, the final and complete sacrifice for sin, the compassionate and understanding mediator, and the *only* way to eternal life. Give yourself unreservedly and completely to Christ. Don't settle for anything less.

--Selected

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### SHEEP IN WOLVES' CLOTHING

The Bible speaks of those who come  
Among the saints of God  
Dressed like the sheep who by His hand  
Are led by staff and rod.

But what of this? This something strange  
When sheep put on wolf skin!  
To win the wolves--it's the excuse  
So they will let us in.



If we're too odd they'll never hear,  
So we must compromise.  
We let the world creep into us  
And think that we are wise.

We link their arms into our own,  
And gradually we lose  
The very Life that we by this  
Had thought to help them choose.

We look like them and smell like them.  
Our lives are much the same.  
At last the only difference  
Is that we claim His name.

But, oh, my friend, the day will come  
When God will separate.  
And so you think He'll call them sheep  
Who love what they should hate?

L. Strubhar  
Selected by Forrest Tate

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### HISTORICAL

This selection is again from the *Life and Labors of Elder John Kline*. Elder Kline travelled by horseback and preached at Brethren churches. These are parts of his sermons in 1836.

### An Illustration

In my travels among the mountains of our Virginia I have often seen the laurel holding out its evergreen but poisonous leaves in sprays of most enticing beauty. Miles and miles of road, in one unbroken stretch, may there be seen densely

hedged on either hand by this beautiful emblem of sin and death. Herds of cattle and flocks of sheep are every year driven over these roads. Every herdsman and shepherd knows the danger to be apprehended from the inclination of some of either kind to "sidle" off from the plain and beaten track and pluck the green leaves of the laurel to their own destruction.

Many a time have I overtaken flocks of sheep, some of which were lying along the road "*down with the staggers*." This last is the name of the disease which is brought on by taking laurel. The old sheep avoid it. They will not taste it. The young sheep and lambs are the only ones that incline first to taste and then eat it. It is hardly necessary for me to point out to you the lesson of instruction to be gathered from what I have just said. The *staggers*, by veterinary surgeons, is said to be a kind of drunkenness often fatal in its effects.

The Prophet Isaiah speaks of some who "are drunken, but not with wine; who stagger, but not with strong drink." I fancy I hear someone in the congregation say: "I guess they must have taken laurel." Precisely so, friend! They took the very laurel that has been the ruin of thousands of the Lord's sheep and lambs. Let me tell you exactly what I mean.

The love of *worldly pleasure* is laurel of *one kind*. It blooms forth in the desire for fine dress, gay company, night gatherings, social parties, and the like things.

*Worldly treasure* is laurel of *another kind*. It blooms forth in the desire for worldly possessions, no matter how obtained, and only to gratify selfish ends. I have known some old sheep to take this kind.

*Ambition to be great and highly honored* is still *another kind*. This is the "deer-tongued" laurel, the very tallest kind that grows, and has the richest looking flowers. But it is just as poisonous as any, and it blooms forth in the desire to be admired for beauty, to be looked up to for superior power and wisdom, and to be held in high honor for great deeds. I have

known some *old sheep* and even *leaders of the flock* to eat of this kind until they staggered considerably. It was plainly visible in their steps that their heads were not exactly level. I am glad, however, to be able to say, that in the flock to which we belong, I have met with very few who ever gave any signs of being afflicted in the way last described.

In his letter to the Philippian brethren, Paul says: "for many walk, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ."

But, brethren, there is a remedy for all these evils. God has provided the remedy. Nor is it a bitter draught. It is the "milk and wine" of His Word. Both mean Truth. I used to wonder why the Prophet Isaiah used both terms, when both mean the same thing. Now I will tell you. He says: "Come unto me, buy wine and milk, yea, buy wine and milk without money, and without price." Milk is truth in its simplest and plainest forms. Gospel truth presented in a way that very young and uninstructed minds may readily take it in, is what Paul calls "*milk for babes*." But *wine* is the very same truth extended and expanded into forms of instruction adapted to the understandings of "men in Christ Jesus."

All are invited and even exhorted to come; to come to the "fountain that was opened in the house of David." It is the same that is meant by the "river of the water of life which proceedeth from the throne of God and of the Lamb." I exhort every one, both old and young, to study God's Word for the truth it contains, represented by the beautiful symbols set before you therein. Even the unconverted sinner is invited to come and take of the "water of life freely."

Here pardon, love, and joy divine  
In rich effusion flow,  
For guilty sinners lost in sin  
And doomed to endless woe.

Sunday, May 22. Meeting at the Linville's Creek meeting house. Brother Kline spoke briefly on Acts 2. He said: "As this is the traditional day on which the Holy Spirit was poured out in a miraculous way, so that the whole house wherein the apostles and brethren were sitting was filled with his presence, so that they were all baptized in the Holy Spirit and in the heavenly fire, we think it good to meditate and speak upon these things.

"It may be that we err by believing that each apostle was endowed with the gift of all the tongues here enumerated. It would be natural, I think, for those who spoke the same tongue to sit or stand together in companies. We may, even at the present day, see examples and instances of this in large cities and public places. Here we see a group of Germans, there, a company of Swedes, or Dutch, or Italians. People of the same nationality as naturally seek for each other as birds seek for their own kind.

"The order appears beautiful to our minds in the light of this interpretation. Each apostle was gifted by the Spirit to speak in one tongue at least. If we go to the pains to count, we will find there were nearly as many apostles as nationalities represented. In this way all could speak at the same time; each one to his own group or class of hearers, in gentle tones of voice; and all in the house hear at least one speak in the tongue in which he was born. This interpretation relieves the mind of the apparent confusion which seems to have pervaded that assembly, from a mere cursory reading of the account given of it in the second chapter of the Acts.

"I pray God, that our dear Brethren in Yearly Meeting today and to its close may all, like the apostles, be of one mind and speak the same thing."

Sunday, June 5. Meeting at the Dry Fork. Brother Kline made a few remarks upon Eph. 5:14, "*Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.*"



"We called upon the drowsy, sleeping sinner to arise from his deadness and indifference, pointing him to the promise that Christ would shine upon him and give him the light of life. Whilst speaking on this subject today, I related what was said to be a well authenticated fact which I lately read.

"An Indian, one evening, tied his canoe fast to a tree not far above the falls of Niagara. Feeling that all was secure, he lay down in his canoe and went to sleep. Just about the break of day the fastening from some cause got loose. Very probably the cord was untied by some mischievous person. The Indian continued to sleep. Noiselessly the canoe glided down the stream, nearer and yet nearer the awful brink, softly rocking its sleeping victim to destruction. Just before the frightful leap, roused by the thunder of the cataract, the poor Indian awoke, only in time to see himself hurled into eternity.

"O, how many unconverted men and women are borne down upon the stream of time, unconcerned, thoughtless, careless of the doom that so surely awaits them!"

-----

## TALENTS

God gives us all talents  
Whether many or few.  
He gives us the grace  
To carry them through.

Let's try to develop  
Our talents anew;  
Be a living example  
For others to view.

Cultivating your talents--  
Allowing them to grow,

Will keep them alive,  
So blessings will flow.

Share talents you have;  
Keep the pride out of view.  
Seek help from above;  
His love will flow through.

So let's live our talents  
Through life day by day,  
With the help of His Word,  
We'll be shown the true way!

Marcus Royer  
Goshen, Indiana

-----

### OBJECT LESSON

A pastor went to see a man who didn't attend church very faithfully. The man was sitting before a fire, watching the warm glow of the coals. It was a cold winter day, but the coals were red hot, and the fire was warm. The pastor pleaded with the man to be more faithful in meeting with the people of God, but the man didn't seem to be getting the message.

So the pastor took the tongs beside the fireplace, pulled open the screen, and reached in and began to separate all the coals. When none of the coals were touching the others, he stood and watched in silence. In a matter of moments, they were all cold. . . The man got the message.

By John MacArthur (Selected)

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The image of God our children have is often filtered through the image of Him they see in us. We must give them a clear image!

--From a reader

## BAPTISMS

Japheth Martin	New Paris, Indiana	March 16
Jordan Royer	Goshen, Indiana	March 16
Christian Savage	Arcanum, Ohio	March 21
Kaylin Royer	Goshen, Indiana	March 23
Janita Royer	Goshen, Indiana	March 23

May God guide these dear young souls as they serve in the Kingdom of Christ.

## BIRTHS

STUMP - A son, Clark Nelson, born April 23 to Nelson and Dorcas Stump of Goshen, Indiana.

CABLE - A daughter, Pollyanna Mae, born April 24 to Larry and Liana Cable of Dayton, Ohio.

## MARRIAGE

MEYERS-ROYER Justin Meyers and Orpha Royer were married February 23 near Wakarusa, Indiana.

New address: 24197 S.R. 119

Goshen, IN 46526

Phone Justin: (515) 783-6972

Orpha: (574) 238-8015

## FOR YOUTH Following Jesus

Following Jesus means surrendering my will.

Sometimes it means giving up friends.

Sometimes it means laying aside my pride and opening up to someone.

Sometimes it means taking an honest look at myself.

Sometimes it means relinquishing personal opinions;

Sometimes it means changing in areas that seem impossible.

Following Jesus involves reaching out to others.

It is being willing to risk being hurt to show His love.

It is giving up my hurts and forgiving;

Sometimes it is being the bearer of some unpleasant message.

Following Jesus includes allowing Him to satisfy my needs.

Sometimes it means accepting aloneness.

Sometimes it means accepting rejection.

Following Jesus is letting go of everything that is dear so that I can embrace Him!

Following Jesus also means feeling the beautiful peace that follows a hard-won victory.

It includes His smile of approval when I've done what I know is right.

It includes His acceptance of a sacrifice that only He understands.

Following Jesus means receiving strength to face the future.

It means having an ever-present joy that no trial can steal;

It means experiencing peace in the midst of turmoil;

It mean having stability through unstable circumstances.

Following Jesus means experiencing the lasting satisfaction that only Jesus can provide!

Katelyn Golding

Wakarusa, Indiana

---

### JOY

"But let all those who put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee." Psalm 5:11 is one of the many verses which says to me that we are to be joyful.

Joy is something with many sources. If we are living in God's presence, our lives should shine with His joy. ("In thy presence is fullness of joy.")



How are we hoping to bring the world to Christ if our lives and faces reflect anything but true joy? I definitely don't think we should put on a show and make it seem like we are joyful, but joy is important. God is defending us, so why aren't we shouting for joy? (Psalm 5:11)

Sometimes it's way too easy to see all our own problems and be bogged down by them. Like a child who gets to go to a friend's house and has tons of fun, but when it's time to leave their whole world is flipped upside down. They think everything bad happens to them and they never get to have fun. I think we are this way more than we realize. God is so good to us--until something goes slightly "wrong." Even if we did have a horrible life here on earth, compared to eternity, that's entirely insignificant. As a whole we are blessed!

This is why one of my favorite prayers has become: "Make me to hear joy and gladness," as David prayed in Psalm 51:8. Lord willing, in focusing on the good (by tuning our ears to joy and gladness), by being in God's presence, and by loving Him, we can truly portray a joyful heart.

Bethanna Taylor  
Tuolumne, California

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### CHILDREN'S PAGE Family Joys

After watching our nest of robins for about two weeks, we were finding it rather humorous how crowded the nest was becoming. The little mud bowl that had been so large around the bright blue eggs and newly-hatched, young birds soon became too small for four growing robins. Soon came the Saturday when we saw the birds almost stacked on top of each other (they were that big), and we watched them slip over the side of the nest one by one till the mud bowl was empty.

It makes us think of the swift passing of time: how soon the family joys that we take for granted today will be gone. Children will leave our nest, and a certain wonderful part of our life will be gone. Here is a poem written a few years ago about some of these simple family joys:

Incomparable!

Some things there are that won't be matched:

Like braids with little girls attached;

A little son with tousled head;

An infant, innocent, in bed;

A little daughter's learning lisp,

Her flashing smile and cherub kiss;

An eager energetic lad

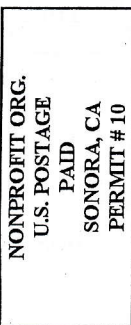
Who pleads, "Can I go with you, Dad?"

Yes, these are gifts so grand and good

That God reserved for Parenthood.

Yes, and the same gifts that make parents so joyful can make happy children too, in happy homes.

Stanley K. Brubaker in *The Pilgrim*, June, 1983



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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## "SEARCH ME, O GOD"

What thoughts came crowding in today

When difficulty came my way?

What motives guide the things I do?

Am I concerned with right and true?

What attitudes control my mind?

Do I see good, or problems find?

Is pleasing self my daily goal?

Is flesh or spirit in control?

What do my life and lips express--

Complaints or praise and thankfulness?

Did I take time from daily care

To spend with God in quiet prayer?

Lord, You have felt the tempter's might

That seeks to turn men from the right,

But Yours is strength much greater far

Than Satan's strongest tactics are.

My needs reveal, my faith increase,

Lead me in ways of lasting peace.

Merna B. Shank

in *CLE Lightlines*

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## EPAPHRODITUS

Who was he? His brief mention in the New Testament does not mean he was unimportant. Our Bible could be huge if all was recorded. As John writes about Jesus: "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen." (John 21:25) This also could apply to His works through His followers.

Most of us don't rate for newspaper stories or medals of honor. But the fabric of the church is woven with many colors and lots of fibers. Each one has a part. Each one is needed. And God has His eye on every child of His and offers room for more to come and be born again into His family.

Epaphroditus was one of Paul's fellow laborers. Read of him in Philippians 2:15-30 and 4:18--just seven verses--but they describe a zealous worker, one who did not value his life in serving Christ.

As we consider him, try to decide if *you* would like to be an Epaphroditus, and ask yourself if you would need to change to be this kind of disciple of Jesus.

Paul calls him "my brother." Brothers have the same father. They are usually somewhat alike and resemble their parents. If we are in God's family, we have many brothers and sisters.

Jesus prayed that His people ("those whom thou hast given me") might be one and even made perfect in one. That ideal describes a closer resemblance and a stronger bond than natural brothers have.

Epaphroditus was like Paul. We too are called to be like them and to be their brothers. Is this attainable or do we just read of it and write about it and wish for it? Through Christ we



can be. Hebrews 2:11 tells us Jesus is not ashamed to call them (us?) brethren. Matchless grace! Undeserving love! Highest privilege!

Paul also describes this brother as his "companion in labour" and is not talking about making tents. Epaphroditus was "nigh unto death" for the work of Christ. Christ's service can be taxing and tiring. Physical labor is usually good for the body. But Paul writes of perils and fasting and the care of all the churches. Brother Epaphroditus nearly died. Does this sound inviting to us?

Another relationship to Paul was "fellovsoldier." They fought side by side. War at that time involved helmets, armor, swords, and shields. The weapons of the Christian war are not carnal but mighty. They can pull down strongholds (bad habits?), cast down imaginations (malice? pride?), and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God (evolution? unbelief?), and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. Talk about power and attention to detail! Every thought! Wouldn't we be glad for victory like that? Epaphroditus's battle is worth our participating.

But Epaphroditus was more than brother, companion, and fellovsoldier to Paul. He was messenger to the Philippians. He wrote the epistle for Paul and probably delivered it. (See note at epistle's end and 2:29) He had also delivered the Philippians' offering to Paul.

Finally, he was Paul's faithful servant: "he that ministered to my wants." He served almost unknown. We would prefer to have a job that is well paid and recognized. It's fine to be appreciated, but is that our motive?

Even as his name is hard to pronounce, his example may be hard to imitate. We need the grace of our Lord to succeed. Paul writes for the church to "Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation." May we too receive him and his testimony. --L.C.

## WITH ALL OUR HEART

"Worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh." (Phil. 3:3b) The word *worship* is also given as *serve* or *do the service*, all from the same Greek word. Our inner being, the spirit part of us, will worship something. Either we will worship (serve) Jesus of Nazareth or idols.

"Idol: 1. an image of a divinity or a god used as an object of worship; 2. a person or thing too greatly loved or adored; 3. a form having no substance; an apparition, as an image in a mirror; a phantom." (from *The Winston Dictionary* C. 1945)

When born again, it is the spirit part of us that is made new, (a new creature). Our spirit can become unclean, impure. We can live right, have no known outward sin, but if our spirit neglects to worship the God who made the heavens and the earth, we have fallen. Our inner being affects every thing we do. It cannot remain empty. Either we are filled with the life of God or something else that seeks His position.

We worship what we love or fear. A proper sense of the fear of God will lead us to respect, honor, and obey Him. This will lead us to Him who is love. Our service will then be constrained by love. But if we go after this world, motivated not by the fear of God, but by the love of this world, we will end up serving beings who hate the Creator and His creation, which will turn into a service of fear. This is seen in heathen religions. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (II Tim. 1:7)

If we love God with all our heart, we will worship Him in our heart and spirit. If our heart is not all His, then something else will be there, some idol. Idols are thieves and robbers; they don't really satisfy. We sacrifice for what we love and worship. "But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they

sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils." (I Cor. 10:20) A very serious subject! Our spirits can become unclean. If so, "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (I Cor. 7:1)

The pure in heart are blessed, for they shall see God. (Matt. 5:8) If we think we can be pure in heart (spirit), but walk in known sin, we are deceived. "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil." (II Thess. 3:3) He can only stablish and keep those whose hearts and spirits are His. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:7)

*"The word heart is used in Scripture as the seat of life or strength; hence it means mind, soul, spirit, or one's entire emotional nature and understanding. it is also used as the center or inner part of a thing." (from Cruden's Concordance)*

"The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen. (II Tim. 4:22)

Kevin Garber  
Greenville, Ohio

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## FOLLOW THE PATH OF JESUS

This past summer (1993) our family walked through the Luray Caverns, that underground wonderland of Virginia. Our guide was very gracious and left no doubt that he knew where he was leading us. And although we made many turns and wound through narrow passages, I had not one fear that we would get lost. All we needed to do was follow the guide.

About the year 1871, a Baptist by the name of Christopher Ruby Blackall toured the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. I too have been in that cavern. The guide leads on and on through



one channel after another. And in those pre-electric light days, I can imagine the added awesomeness Blackall must have experienced. It is now known that Mammoth Cave is connected to 144 miles of branching and interconnected channels. To lose the way in such a maze of paths could be fatal. Yet by following a trustworthy guide, the tour can be both safe and enjoyable.

On the train ride back to Chicago, Blackall pondered the importance of following the right paths in Mammoth Cave. He saw in that experience a close parallel to the importance of the Christian's following the path of Jesus in life. Those meditations became the inspiration for the hymn:

Follow the path of Jesus, Walk where His footsteps lead;  
Keep in His beaming presence, Every counsel heed;  
Watch, while the hours are flying, Ready some good to do;  
Quick, while His voice is calling, Yield obedience true!

Cling to the hand of Jesus, All through the day and night;  
Dark though the way and dreary, He will guide you right.  
Live for the good of others, Helpless, oppressed and wrong;  
Lift them from depth of sorrow, In His strength be strong!

Although Blackall was a Baptist, these words so well express the Mennonites' (and Brethren's) understanding of discipleship, that this song has become a favorite among the Mennonites ever since it was first included in their 1890 *Hymns and Tunes*. And while this great hymn is largely unknown outside Mennonite circles, we have been singing it enthusiastically from various of our hymnals or spontaneously from memory. The compiling committee of that 1890 hymnbook put the words to the now familiar tune "Bound Brook" and changed "paths" to "path." In the 1927 *Church*



*Hymnal* a third stanza was added that even further clarifies the Christian's call to self-denial and evangelism:

Take up the cross of Jesus, Sharing the shame He bore;  
Self and the world denying, Love the Saviour more;  
Tell all the world of Jesus, Think of their gloom and loss,  
Tell of His great salvation, Glory in His cross.

Christ's invitation to His disciples was, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." For those disciples, that call meant literally following Jesus over the roads of Palestine and living like He lived. They learned that with Jesus they need fear no ill, not even when on the stormy sea of Galilee. They also learned that to follow Jesus meant sharing with Him the rejection and cruelty of the enemies of God. Peter, who was one of those disciples, knew from experience what following Jesus included when he wrote: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." (I Peter 2:21)

The invitation to follow the path of Jesus is still extended: "Dark though the way (of life) and dreary, He will guide you right." Not to follow Jesus through the maze of life will be fatal. "Quick while His voice is calling, yield obedience true."

Lester E. Showalter

Greencastle, Pennsylvania

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### I HAVE BEEN WRONGED

Every neighborhood has them--those people who carry around a spirit of grievance. "I have been wronged," they say. They develop a self-pitying, complaining spirit.

They are waiting for the ones who have wronged them to come and make their wrongs right. And until that happens, they sulk and complain. Perhaps they will not come to church;

if they do come, they will not carry any responsibility. They may refuse, in their condemnation of others, to participate in communion. They withhold their financial support. As the years go by, their attitude becomes hardened into a personality trait. They become known as people who carry a grudge for something that happened years ago.

Yes, there are injustices in human relations, and, since all men are fallible, these injustices may occur in church relationships. Most people have been wronged at some time or other, or at least think they have been. So the man who has been misused is not suffering any solitary misfortune.

This is not to justify the giving of offense. Jesus said that offenses must needs come, but woe to that man by whom they come. However, when a stone of stumbling is thrown our way, it is sensible and Christian to refuse to stumble. He is a foolish man who insists on stubbing his toe just because there is a stumbling block in his path.

Life is too short to let any of it be spoiled by moping around. If we have been wronged, we quickly forgive and forget, and go on our way. One does not have to wait until the wronger apologizes. He should apologize, but if he does not, it is his loss. Let us not warp our souls by an unforgiving spirit. Love does not care to keep books on evil.

The wrongs we suffer can be a means of making our characters more holy and more beautiful. And so the people who wrong us may actually be doing us a favor.

And what a testimony to the world it is when Christians refuse to hold grudges! Any worldling can cherish a hurt; many of them do. But only a Christian, one who is like Christ, can live above being hurt. Imagine Christ on the cross saying, "I have been wronged!" Of course He had been. But He turned His being wronged into the world's redemption.

And regarding forgiveness, Jesus said in Mark 11:26, "But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."

And again in Matthew 6:14-15, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

These Scriptures are positive and weighty. Let us further picture in our minds our Savior on the cross, who was despised, rejected, and wronged, but gave us this wonderful example when He prayed. "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Perhaps someone reading this cannot name one person who has ever wronged him. God bless you! You have just forgotten it, as God wants you to do. No true follower of Christ says, "I have been wronged."

An old tract republished by *The Literature Lamplighter*

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## THE IMITATION OF CHRIST

Some may recognize this title. Its four parts, or books, were written by Thomas a Kempis in the 1400's, long before the Reformation. A classic, it is in value like *Pilgrim's Progress*. We may be able to print more in future issues.

### Chapter 1. Of the Imitation of Christ, and Contempt of all the vanities of the World

*He that followeth me, walketh not in darkness, saith the Lord.* These are the words of Christ, by which we are admonished, how we ought to imitate His life and manners, if we would truly be enlightened, and delivered from all blindness



of heart. Let therefore our chiefest endeavour be, to meditate upon the life of Jesus Christ.

The doctrine of Christ exceedeth all the doctrine of holy men; and he that hath the Spirit will find therein the hidden manna.. But it falleth out that many who often hear the Gospel of Christ, feel little desire after it, because they have not the Spirit of Christ. But whosoever will fully and with relish understand the words of Christ, must endeavour to conform his life wholly to the life of Christ.

2. What doth it avail thee to discourse profoundly of the Trinity, if thou be void of humility, and art thereby displeasing to the Trinity? Surely profound words do not make a man holy and just; but a virtuous life maketh him dear to God. I had rather feel contrition, than know the definition thereof. If thou didst know the whole Bible by heart, and the sayings of all the philosophers, what would all that profit thee without the love of God, and without His grace.

Vanity of vanities, all is vanity, except to love God, and to serve Him only. This is the highest wisdom, by contempt of the world to press forward towards heavenly kingdoms.

Vanity therefore it is, to seek after perishing riches, and to trust in them. Vanity also it is to hunt after honours, and to climb to high degree. Vanity it is to follow the desires of the flesh, and to long after that for which thou must afterwards suffer grievous punishment. Vanity it is, to wish to live long, and to be careless to live well. Vanity it is to mind only this present life, and not to foresee those things which are to come. Vanity it is to set thy love on that which speedily passeth away, and not to hasten thither where everlasting joy abideth.

Call often to mind that proverb, *The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.* Endeavor therefore to withdraw thy heart from the love of visible things, and to turn thyself to things invisible. For they that follow their own sensuality, defile their conscience, and lose the grace of God.



## A TEN-FOLD TEST FOR TV

1. *Does it make me more spiritual?* "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above." (Colossians 3:1)

2. *Is this for the glory of God?* "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all the glory of God." (I Corinthians 10:31)

3. *Does it give me a greater burden for prayer, and make it easier to pray through after an evening of such entertainment?* "Pray without ceasing." (I Thessalonians 5:17)

4. *Do I feel purer in heart through its influence?* "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." (Matthew 5:8)

5. *Do I feel that I have had fellowship with spiritual people?* "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." (Ephesians 5:11)

6. *Does it draw my children to God?* "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

7. *Does it instruct my family in God's Word and God's way of life?* "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Deuteronomy 6:6,7)

8. *Is it popular with the people of the world?* "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (I John 2:15)

9. *By purchasing and using television am I spending my money and time to advance God's kingdom in my life and in the lives of others?* "See then that ye walk circumspectly (carefully watching your steps), not as fools, but as wise,

redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:15,16)

10. *What would Jesus do if He were in the flesh?* "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as he is, so are we in this world." (I Jn.4:17) May God save us from this satanic evil!

--By R. W. Dunn in Vera Overholt's

*Scrapbook of Ideas for Christian Workers*

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### ORDINATION AND ADVANCEMENTS

On May 9 near Bradford, Ohio, Brother Larry Cable was ordained to the eldership in the Eastern Congregation. He will be serving with support of his wife Liana. At the same meeting Brother Shane Oberholzer and Brother Tim Yoder were advanced to the second degree of ministry. They will be serving with support of their wives, Beth Ann Oberholzer and Serena Yoder.

May God bless these brethren and their labors as they serve in the kingdom.

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### BIRTH

MARTIN - a daughter, Janet Irene, born May 6 to Kevin and Ina Martin of New Paris, Indiana.

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### MY MOTHER

When pain and sickness made me cry,  
Who gazed upon my heavy eye,  
And wept for fear that I would die?

My mother.

Who ran to help me when I fell,  
And would some pretty story tell  
Or kiss the place to make it well?

My mother.

Who taught my infant lips to pray,  
And love God's Holy Book and day,  
And walk in wisdom's pleasant way?

My mother.

And can I ever cease to be,  
Affectionate and kind to thee,  
Who was so very kind to me?

My mother

When thou art feeble, old and gray,  
My healthy arms shall be thy stay,  
And I will soothe thy pain away,

My mother.

And when I see thee hang thy head,  
'Twill be my turn to watch thy bed,  
And tears of sweet appreciation shed.

My mother.

For God, who lives above the skies,  
Would look with vengeance in His eyes,  
If I should dare despise,

My mother.

Selected

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## FOR YOUTH

### The Hurting

Reserved and quiet he may seem,  
With not a lot to say.  
He'll give a smile and nod his head,  
And soon be on his way.

Perhaps she always has a grin  
Or funny thing to tell.  
She seems to have a happy lot;  
Her things turn out so well.

But take a closer look, my friend,  
And notice something more;  
The wary eye, the guarded way  
They stay far from that door.

Avoiding anything that's close,  
They try to keep things light.  
They feel a joke or story now  
Would be in order quite.

I think, my friend, that when we see  
Someone who looks this way,  
A hurting one we may have found,  
And really need to pray

That God would help them to let go  
Of anything that still  
Makes them reluctant to forgive  
Those who have done them ill.

They need our prayers to help them through  
This time of great distress.  
An easy thing it is to have,  
When hurt, some bitterness.

So let us ever strive to be  
Compassionate and kind.  
And help--not hinder--hurting ones,  
And healing they may find.

Katelyn Golding  
Wakarusa, Indiana



## JUST A LITTLE CONTAMINATION

One day a mother was scraping vegetables for salad as her daughter came in to ask permission to go to an "adult" movie.

"But all the kids are going," she said, "and their folks don't think it will hurt them."

As she talked, she saw her mother pick up a handful of the scraps and throw them into the salad. Rather startled, she shouted, "Mother, you are putting the garbage in the salad!"

"I know," her mother replied, "but I thought if you didn't mind garbage in your mind, you wouldn't care about a little in your stomach."

Thoughtfully, the girl picked the peelings from the salad and then smiled at her mother. "I guess I'll just tell them I'm staying home tonight," she said as she went through the kitchen door.

Selected

*Young people, I trust that the mention of a poor movie will not give the idea that others are all right. There may be a rare exception, but most of Hollywood's products will not pass the test of TV printed this month on page 11. --L.C.*

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## CHILDREN'S PAGE

## Working Together

The Bible says we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Science never ceases to confirm that, even though some scientists believe we just happened. God created all the parts of the body to work together. Because of the Fall, sometimes some parts of the body do not work well together. When this happens, the body is hindered.

My eyes do not work together. I have excellent sight in one eye, but can only see up close with the other eye. I can see up

close with my good eye, too, but as long as I have my bad eye open, my good eye will not focus up close. This means I have a hard time telling how far away something is. This is called perspective. Also, at the distance most people read, my bad eye is *almost* focused, so my good eye refuses to focus, which means I must read up close, or at a greater distance than what is comfortable to hold a book. If only they would work together!

God's Word likens the church to a body. All the parts work together. If they do not, there is trouble.

But children are not part of the church yet, so why am I telling you this? Because I hope you will be a part of the church some day, and I hope you will learn to work well together with your brothers and sisters, class-mates, and friends, so that when you *are* a part of the church, it will be easier for you to work well with the other members. You won't automatically get along with others even as a grown-up, so try to make a habit of it now.

I look forward to "working" with you some day!

Martha J. Wagner

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." (1 John 4:14)

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## HELP ME TO BE HOLY

Help me to be holy, O Father of light;  
Guilt-burdened and lowly, I bow in Thy sight;  
How shall a stained conscience dare gaze on Thy face,  
E'en though in Thy presence Thou grant me a place.

Help me to be holy, O Saviour divine;  
Why conquer so slowly this nature of mine?  
Stamp deeply Thy likeness where Satan's hath been;  
Expel with Thy brightness my darkness and sin!

Help me to be holy, O Spirit divine;  
Come, sanctify wholly this temple of Thine;  
Now cast out each idol; here set up Thy throne,  
Reign, reign without rival, supreme and alone!

Adoniram Judson Gordon, 1836-1895  
Selected from *The Christian Hymnary*

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## FATHERS, KNOW HIM

*"I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning."*

Obviously this message from the Apostle John is to Christian fathers. To know Him that is from the beginning describes the power a Christian father has to direct his family. No greater resource is available. In Jesus' prayer to the Father, He described this privilege: "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

A trite statement of the world goes, "It is not so much what you know but who you know!" The one who first said this had no idea how true this would be for a Christian father. We don't minimize the importance of information--of study and counsel. But in the varied decisions of rearing a family, to know God is a requirement above anything from "the books." In this knowledge we find all the answers to questions bombarding the Christian father.

Consider first the discipline of a son. We are often perplexed regarding what really works. The "world" puts out books, articles, advice of all kinds, but we see failure--children without direction and self-centered. And what else could be expected if children are given anything money can buy but not real love, responsibility, or requirement of instant obedience? The Christian father, knowing God, goes to His Word. Proverbs is a manual God has given for family and relationships of all kinds. Regarding discipline for that son, 13:34 says, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."



"Oh, but I thought it was love to spare them the woodshed times I experienced as a boy!" Not so! This verse says that is hate. There is no excuse for cruelty, but loving corporal punishment for disobedience gives results and a happy child.

I was pleased at a recent Christian gathering to see over 160 children from Christian homes come forward to sing together. It was plain that they were obedient and happy. God's way works.

Proverbs also deals with personal problems a father encounters. When we have failures, disappointments, frustrations, it is natural to be angry. But Proverbs 14:17 says, "He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly." Verse 29: "He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly." Proverbs 22:14 deals with another problem: "The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the Lord shall fall therein." Faithfulness to our marriage bonds is a feature of fathers who know the Lord.

For a father struggling to support a family, dishonesty in business is still another temptation. Some things seem so small, but taking from a big company or being false in government or tax reports are wrong even if it would never be known. To know God means we are aware that He sees all. Proverbs 20:23: "Divers weights are an abomination unto the Lord; and a false balance is not good." 23:23: "Buy the truth, and sell it not. . ." 15:16: "Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith." 13:7: "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches." This book of God tells us of the true values and where our hearts should be.

The New Testament has still more instruction for the father that knows God. Ephesians 6:4: "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." And Colossians 3:21 is similar:

"Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."

All this defines a high responsibility, and if you feel you have failed in family training or other ways, do not give up. Confess to your children. They are usually forgiving. And God is always forgiving when we turn to Him with sincere hearts. Tell your children it will be different from now on. Resolve to know God better through His Word, and trust His direction.

Our obedience to God is not like a set of instructions to service a tractor or assemble a wheelbarrow. Lives are at stake. God has invested the sacrifice of His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ in the salvation of our children. We are charged to teach, to train, to nurture. And there is no second chance.

Fathers and mothers, turn to God's Word often. "Pray without ceasing." Our generation offers temptations never known before in the forms of entertainment: ungodly music, videos, TV, internet, and even cell phones. Money is not as scarce as it was fifty years ago, but it still should be managed carefully. Children need (and appreciate) definite guidelines. It is your duty to teach right and wrong--truth and error. Contrary to what we hear, these principles never change. God holds us responsible for the abundance we have been given. Truly we must direct our children from on our knees and show them a "well worn path to the cross." --L.C.

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#### WHEN FATHER PRAYS

When Father prays the house is still;  
His voice is slow and deep;  
We shut our eyes, the clock ticks loud,  
So quiet we must keep.

He prays that we may be good boys,  
And later on, good men;

And then we squirm and think we won't  
Have any quarrels again.

You'd never think, to look at Dad,  
He once had tempers too;  
I guess if Father needs to pray,  
We youngsters surely do.

Sometimes the prayer gets very long  
And hard to understand,  
And then I wriggle up quite close  
And let him hold my hand.

I can't remember all of it;  
I'm little yet, you see,  
But one thing I can not forget:  
My father prays for me!

Author unknown

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## THE CHRISTIAN'S GLORY

Jesus said there would be wolves in sheep's clothing (Matt. 7:15), those who would look like sheep, but really were not. He said His kingdom does not come with observation (Luke 17:20), that unless we are born again, we cannot see His kingdom (John 3:3). Constantine joined the church (or so it appeared) with the world (world government). He made people part of his church through baptism, who by the testimony of their lives were not born again. A world church system. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. . ." (John 18:36).

The kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven, is ruled by Jesus Christ, who is gone into the holiest in heaven. He reigns from heaven by His Spirit. No one can call Him Lord, (in truth)

but by the Holy Ghost (I Cor. 12:3). Only through His Spirit are we part of His kingdom and seated with Him in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6).

Jesus was not distinguished by His appearance when He was on earth. As King of heaven's kingdom He did not stand out as being different from the Jews. Judas had to betray Him with a kiss. As the world grows more wicked, God's people will stand out more and more because of their love of holiness.

The Christian does have a mark that sets them apart. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). Love is the Christian's mark of distinction--love that works no ill. Without this mark, the world will not know us as disciples of Jesus, and the Christians won't know either.

Love does nothing that will cause another to stumble, to stray, or be made weak. It works no ill! The light shines in darkness, but the darkness does not comprehend it. The kingdom of God, Jesus' kingdom is in the Spirit. We serve in newness of the Spirit. (Rom. 7:6). We must receive as a little child. Jesus said, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 18:3).

God's Word breaks us. "Whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken" (Matt. 21:44). We know nothing by ourselves. What does God's Word say? Has He spoken? We become as little children; we must learn everything of the Father. As we keep (obey) Jesus' words, the Father and Son come to live in us. (John 14:23). If we don't keep the words of Jesus, we don't love Him. As we love Him, we will keep His words and find that pearl of great price. This will make us willing to lose all to obtain and keep it. Jesus Christ is that pearl of great price. His own didn't receive Him; the world didn't know Him. His blood was spilt on our land. But as many as will receive Him, He will give power to become God's children.



"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. (I Cor. 1:30,31) (Isa. 45:24,25)

Kevin Garber  
Greenville, Ohio

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### TEN GEMS OF TRUTH

Thou shalt not worry, for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.

Thou shalt not be fearful, for most of the things we fear never come to pass.

Thou shalt not cross bridges before you get to them, for no one yet has succeeded in accomplishing this.

Thou shalt face each problem as it comes. You can handle only one at a time anyway.

Thou shalt not take problems to bed with you for they make very poor bedfellows.

Thou shalt not borrow other people's problems. They can take better care of them than you can.

Thou shalt not try to relive yesterday for good or ill--it is gone. Concentrate on what is happening in your life today.

Thou shalt count thy blessings, never overlooking the small ones, for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one.

Thou shalt be a good listener, for only when you listen do you hear ideas different from your own. It's very hard to learn something new when you are talking.

Thou shalt not become bogged down by frustration, for ninety percent of it is rooted in self-pity, and it will only interfere with positive action.

By Elodie Armstrong  
Selected by Nancy Oyler

## TONGUE

James 3:6: "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." *Defile--to make impure, dirty, pollute, soil, to make unclean.*

Proverbs 18:21a: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue."

James 1:26: "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridlETH not his tongue, but deceivETH his own heart, this man's religion is vain."

*Bridle--to restrain or govern, check, subdue, control.*

Proverbs 10:18b: ". . . he that uttereth a slander is a fool"  
*Slander--to injure by malice; to tell a false report.*

*Malice --a disposition to injure another.*

Psalms 39:1a: "I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue." God warns us that the tongue can no man tame; it is unruly, full of deadly poison. **We are fully responsible for every word we speak.**

Matthew 12:36: "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Our tongue will reveal the true thoughts of our inner spirit.

Matthew 12:34b: "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." The Holy Spirit is warning against idle and evil words, wrong conclusions and attitudes we allow our spirit to convey in our words. The words we say are an indication of our heart. The words have power over our character. One is influenced by his words, and we are often deceived by our own words. Jealous, evil, surmising, careless, foolish words, and a habit of criticism rejects and grieves the Holy Spirit.

Our tongue is a daily reminder and motivation to purify our hearts. We must ask forgiveness for every offense of the tongue, and in so doing, by humbling ourselves, we receive more power to purify our hearts. James 4:6b: "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

#### GUIDES FOR OUR TONGUE

1. Dedicate our heart and tongue to the Lord daily. Rom. 12:1
2. Put our heart in tune with God's Spirit by daily reading, and meditating on, His Word. Psalm 119:11: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee."
3. Assume responsibility for every word. Matthew 12:37: "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."
4. Discover from those around us what offensive words we use.
5. Commit ourselves to purpose to give a good report and follow Matthew 18.
6. Ask forgiveness for any unloving words or attitudes. (Matt. 5:23,24)
7. Learn how to give words that will encourage, comfort, inspire, exhort, and edify. Heb. 3:13a: "But exhort one another daily. . ." Use kind, gracious, loving words.
8. Listen to our words through the ears of others before we speak.
9. Discern the spirit of our hearers **before, during, and after** we speak to urge our friends to tell us when we offend with our words. Prov. 27:5: "Open rebuke is better than secret love."

Scriptures on the tongue: memorize and use them to help build a spiritual guard to check our words before we say them. Let all evil speaking be put away from us. (Eph. 4:31)

Prov. 21:23: "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles."

Prov. 29:20: "Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him."

Prov. 13:3: "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction."

I Peter 3:10b: "... let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile."

Prov. 15:1: "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."

Psalm 141:3: "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."

Because our words are reflections of our heart, it is essential that we bring into captivity every thought to obedience to Christ. Phil. 4:8: Whatsoever things are *true, accurate*. Will it give an accurate impression? *Honest, honorable*. Should it be imitated by others? *Just, proper*. Is it appropriate to say? *Lovely, pleasant*. Will it brighten the lives of all who hear it? *Good report, esteem*. Will it damage anyone's reputation? *Virtue, moral excellence*. Will it motivate others to holy and godly lives. *Praise, praiseworthy*. Will it lift and edify all who hear it? Think on these things.

In obedience to God's Word, let us commit to giving good reports and avoiding bad reports. What is a bad report? It is using words, patterns, and facial expressions to put someone else in a bad light; it is damaging someone else's reputation with information that does not need to be shared. It is encouraging our spreading discord among others. It will be a bad report if I do not first go to the offender privately with the motive of restoration. Prov. 6:19: "The Lord hates. . . he that soweth discord among brethren." When someone asks for a bad report, give them a good report instead. As soon as we realize someone is giving us a bad report, we should always lovingly ask him if he has gone to the person yet. Say, "Are you telling me so I can go with you to help restore him? Do you feel I am responsible to know about this? I would rather not hear it



unless I am involved. If we ask for a good report, and he is not able to give it, then it is his responsibility to go to him privately to attempt restoration. He must discern what caused the offense and go in meekness and love. God may be using his offense to remind us to work in an area of ourselves. To stop others giving bad reports, first examine and correct wrong motives in our own hearts.

In His love, Nancy Beidler  
Richland, Pennsylvania

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### UGLY TWINS

Hatred and Jealousy, two twin brothers,  
Love to spite and to snipe at others.  
And whenever those twins come into view,  
They're joined by the ugliest looking crew,  
Anger and Quarrel and Mope and Cuss,  
Lies and Mischief and Poke and Fuss--  
All friends and cousins of H. and J.  
They'll try their hardest to spoil your day.  
They might come sneaking, or make a din,  
But if they come, don't let them in.  
No matter how hard they shove and shout,  
For they'll gobble you up--from the inside out!  
And if still they hammer away at your lock,  
Ask Jesus to answer their fearful knock.  
You'll find those twins will leave in a trice  
And their friends just melting away like ice!  
And your heart will be happy and light and free,  
Just the way it was meant to be.

by Margaret Penner Toews  
Selected

## BAPTISMS

Lydia Beery    Goshen, Indiana    June 1

Ariel Batson    LaGrange, Indiana    June 8

May God guide and bless these young sisters as they serve  
the Lord Jesus in His kingdom.

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## MARRIAGE

Jesse Martin and Melina Royer were joined in marriage June 7.

Their new address:    62201 Ash Road  
                              Wakarusa, IN 46573

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## NEW ADDRESS

Carl Beck    Fairlawn  
                  500 Haven Drive, Apt. 106  
                  Archbold, OH 43502  
                  phone: (419) 446-2665

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## A PARENT'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, as we look at these sweet little faces,  
Upturned to meet ours in the light;  
Where sorrow and pain have as yet left no traces,  
Whose smiles are with innocence, bright:

There's a praise in our hearts that is earnest and humble,  
Fervent prayer that's too deep for a word:

That we may be worthy, not cause one to stumble,  
As we guide their wee feet in the path of our Lord.

We know they will follow our steps every day,  
Will learn every habit we do,  
Every word, every act, every thought all the way:  
Oh Lord, to our trust keep us true!

By Ada Wine  
Selected

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## FOR YOUTH

### NO MATTER THE COST

It was a dark, rainy eve when Sister Qi shared her story. There were perhaps thirty Americans in the audience, of whom I was one. As a Chinese Christian, her experiences were quite opposite to what we were familiar with, and she was there to share them with us.

Tears are her first language, Chinese her second, and English her third. Communism was her past life and Jesus her present and future life. Her bearing was firm but humble; her voice was soft and tender. Every word of the sometimes broken and accented English she spoke was tainted with struggle.

My heart quivered as I listened to her tremulous voice. I was not acquainted with laboring long days to get a mere sustenance or being obliged to do a man's work just so I could go to school. From being forced to live in the countryside to work endlessly in fields where you did not receive its yield, to be considered "black" by the government, to have little hope of ever escaping poverty--Sister Qi's difficult story wound on. With much persistence and sweat she made the miraculous

climb from a student to teacher of English to dean of a large university.

Her voice which had been calm while relating her circumstances welled with emotion as she began to relate her journey to Jesus. I sat up straighter and listened intently. All she had known was Communism. It was the only way to live and effectively manage a country. Anything else was wrong and ought to not be listened to. But God in His mercy exposed her to the Bible and a Christian teacher that worked under her. Over the years she developed questions about Christianity and would at time share them with Brother B---

Then came the memorable evening when she called Brother B--- and asked him, "How do you become a Christian? Can I be one? Do I need to go to school? What must I do?" Her voice grew unsteady, and tears streamed from her pensive eyes. "He prayed and asked me to repeat the words. When we finished praying, I knew in my heart that I was a Christian."

The emotion of that majestic moment swept over the room holding it in a reverent silence. Tears slipped unbidden down my cheeks. How amazing is the touch of Jesus! What a profound decision in the face of all that she had formerly believed and was likely to face in the future! What a commitment!

With saddened tones she painted the picture of a Christian's life in China. One can not openly share their new life in Christ. A Christian can go to state churches, but they are controlled by the government and have little to offer the sincere seeker. To pray and study the Bible with other believers, one must do it quietly and secretly. Even then the danger of persecution lurks nearby. There is no freedom to believe anything but Mao's teachings. Sister Qi's testimony came to an end, and we were dismissed with a song.

Many times since then I have tried to reconcile the difference between most American and Chinese Christians.



Why is it that we do not gather together for an intimate time of crying out to God when we have the freedom to do so? Why do we give excuses for not doing what is right when we will not be beaten for doing so? Why are we so afraid to share the Gospel and why do we not care that we fall short of God's standards? It makes me wonder if we truly love Jesus as we claim to, and if we are truly willing to be faithful no matter the cost.

Lora Huffman  
Dayton, Ohio

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### CHILDREN'S PAGE

#### Good Rules for Boys and Girls

In a certain exchange the following rules of courtesy were given. These rules have been adopted by certain schools over in London. And we think every boy and girl will find them helpful if adopted and carried out:

##### Courtesy to Yourself

Be honest, truthful, and pure.

Do not use bad language.

Keep your face and hands clean, and your clothes and shoes brushed and neat.

Keep out of bad company.

##### Courtesy at Home

Help your parents as much as you can.

Be kind to your brothers and sisters.

Do not be selfish, but share all your good things.

Do your best to please your parents.

##### Courtesy at School

Be respectful to your teachers, and help them as much as you can.

Observe the school rules.

Do not copy.

Do not cut the desk or write in the reading books.

Never let another be punished in mistake for yourself; this is cowardly.

Courtesy at Play

Do not cheat at games.

Do not bully.

Be pleasant and not quarrelsome.

Do not jeer at or call your school-mates by names which they do not like.

From *Scrapbook of Ideas #2*

by Vera Overholt

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### PILGRIM POINTERS

The heart of every problem is the problem of the heart.

Criticism wipes out motivation, but appreciation works wonders.

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## KEEP THYSELF PURE

*Neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure. (1 Tim. 5:22)*

Keep thyself pure! Christ's soldier, hear,  
Through life's loud strife, the call rings clear.  
Thy Captain speaks: His word obey;  
So shall thy strength be as thy day.

Keep thyself pure! thrice blessed he  
Whose heart from taint of sin is free;  
His feet shall stand where saints have trod,  
He with rapt eyes shall see his God.

Keep thyself pure! for He who died,  
Himself for thy sake sanctified;  
Then hear Him speaking from the skies,  
And victor o'er temptation rise.

O Holy Spirit, keep us pure,  
Grant us Thy strength when sins allure;  
Our bodies are Thy temple, Lord;  
Be Thou in thought and act adored.

Adelaide Mary Plumtre  
From *The Christian Hymnary*

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## DANGER 2008

When I was young we lived close to the Hetch Hetchy power line that crossed the Central Valley of California on the way to San Francisco from its source in the mountains. Six high-voltage lines were suspended on ninety foot galvanized steel towers. What a challenge to young boys to climb those towers! We were strictly forbidden to try it. But one young teen aged neighbor not only climbed the tower, but stood upright on top and tossed his coat to the ground. Quite a hero to us boys!

Temptations to young folks are not the same today, but the dangers are there and the thrills are not so much different. Today the technology that built that power line produces cell phones, computers, and video players. Where is the danger there? you might think. You couldn't fall and break your back or touch the wire and get electrocuted. No, the danger is not physical, but it is just as consequential.

These communication channels are not only useful, but also very intriguing and entertaining. What young person would not enjoy pushing buttons that magically produce sounds and sights on a screen? What young mind would not respond to the lure of exciting experiences, new knowledge beyond that of their parents? And what a channel this is for the entertainment world to exploit!

We older ones grew up in a spiritual atmosphere where the problems were Calvinism, Israel in prophecy, worldly dress, and respect for our elders. At family gatherings we boys were allowed to have a good time but also required to shake hands with the uncles, aunts, great uncles, grandfathers, and other



elders worthy of our notice and emulation. But we were not prepared for the new tactics of a powerful adversary.

God is on the throne and in control. He always sees His people and longs to help them. Notice the various dilemmas of history and how His people met them with counsel and prayer for God's help. And our Lord came to the rescue and pointed the way for a solution to the problems of the time.

So why the worry and stress over I pods and cell phones? Because there is danger as real as touching high voltage wires. "We are what we eat," is not just a clever saying. We don't dive for food in the dumpsters. Even some restaurants are not to our liking. We are fussy about what we eat and what our children eat.

But when it comes to spiritual food, we don't always heed warnings about spiritual junk food or even poison. As young people, we were not allowed to go to "shows." We didn't know all the reasons, but our parents were firm and we sensed danger. Now the same entertainment and even worse can come through a video into a car, a bedroom, or garage and the parents don't have to know or be bothered. Parents, fathers, we must know--we must be concerned.

It doesn't always work for a congregation to make firm rules forbidding use of these things. Faithful teaching helps. But the biggest burden must lie on the parents, *their* rules, *their* attitudes.

If I'm off base in warning about these dangers, forgive me. You're probably thinking, "You haven't even sent a text message." True, but this grandpa has a burden. If it is not needed, at least there will be no harm. But if there is danger and we fail to warn, we come under the judgment of God. If God charged Ezekiel to warn the wicked, surely we as parents and grandparents are responsible to protect our dear children and young people.

Paul writes about Satan (II Cor. 2:11) that "we are not ignorant of his devices." We who have lived awhile are also familiar with the devices of Satan. Or we should be.

Before me as I write is a treasured picture of my parents and all the aunts and uncles on my father's side. These dear people didn't see the technology of our times. But they knew danger. They warned us of the irrigation canals, some places with currents that could draw a child into a valve or pipe. Uncle John had huge draft horses, and we were not to go close to them. Bulls were another menace on the small California dairy farms. These were physical dangers.

But the consequences of physical dangers are small compared to the fires of hell for those who are drawn into the influence of the world and overcome. We need to call it what it is: a threat to our very souls.

How can it be that bad? The movies or videos are acted out. They are not truth or a true picture of life. They give our young viewers ideas and expectations that are not realistic. This is one of the milder wrongs. Violence, murder, immorality, drunkenness, arguing, trouble in the homes, divorce, impure courtship, competition, undeserved honor, corrupt motives and goals in life--all these and more are acted out before the ones who watch. It has appeal, but not to the new nature. They may not all be the way we described, but most are presented by a world that has no place for our Savior.

Psalms 101:2b,3 written by David centuries before TV says, "I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me." No wonder David was said to be a man after God's own heart. We can be too, when we turn from the tempting of a wicked world and walk in God's ways. In Jesus Christ it is possible. --L.C.

## SELF

Humans are born selfish. The infant's natural inclination is to make its needs known, first by crying, then later by distinctive sounds and expressions. Self preservation prevails throughout life. Respect for others is learned through training and experience.

With maturity comes a sense of free-will. The nature of self-will also becomes evident. Consequently the natural man tends to place himself as number one in relationship with others. Concern for others is observed in society, but often it is done to ease one's conscience or to gain recognition for performing a charitable act. There has to be a change of heart before the selfish nature can be replaced with a loving attitude.

Jesus told Nicodemus, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." This is the change required to overcome self. In Saint John 3:5, Jesus states further, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." When a person accepts the terms of the Gospel and is born of the Spirit, he is endowed with the spirit of love and becomes a follower of Jesus and a part of His body, the Church.

The human body has many parts. The Apostle Paul explains how each part has its supportive function. Likewise in the Church, each member has a supporting part (Romans 12:4-8, I Cor. 12:12-27). Self interest becomes secondary in the assembly of believers. Each member esteems others better than themselves. Where this attitude prevails there is a healthy congregation. Unfortunately, due to temptations and weakness of the flesh, we sometimes allow the old "self" to raise its ugly head.

An injured foot, sore back, weak heart, or other ailment can weaken the natural body. Likewise a discouraged or wayward



member can weaken the assembly. As with the human body, the stronger members of the body will rally to compensate and help the weak member. By the help of the Holy Spirit we can lovingly help and encourage those in need.

In the medical world when there is a foreign growth, it can weaken and destroy the body. This can happen in a congregation when self interest develops. It becomes a cancer feeding upon the body. It weakens and destroys. We have a responsibility to examine ourselves and nourish our minds with wholesome words and thoughts. Our challenge is to esteem others better than ourselves. We must deny self.

Joseph E. Wagner, Modesto, California

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### BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

*"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." (Psalm 29:2)*

The meaning of *beauty*: splendor, excellency, glory, godliness, honor, majesty. The meaning of *holiness*: purity, sanctification, saintliness, piety.

We live in a day when justification to the flesh, to live after the flesh is very prevalent. But the Bible teaches, "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

By many, those who hold high standards are accused of trying to work their way to heaven. Many believe that when you are "covered by the blood," God looks down and you are declared righteous even if you are living a sinful life. Many statements are made such as, "If I'm in the church, it won't be perfect because I'm not perfect." Also, "You're too idealistic."

With a concern for someone I was close to, I went along to a beginners class at a liberal church. As the teacher was running down thoughts against obedience, it bothered me greatly. I said, "Jesus taught, 'Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.'" The teacher then answered in a



scoffing manner. "So you think you can be perfect, do you?" I was later taken aside and told to not put that kind of thinking on new believers. So, sad to say, many believe holiness is bondage. And there are many who believe you can't live above sin. A popular thinking is, "I'm a saved sinner."

The Bible teaches that Jesus came to save us from our sins, not in our sins. Probably the most popular verse in the Bible is "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) Now let's read on: "And this is condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved, But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." (John 3:19-21)

Kenneth Garber, Greenville, Ohio

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## WHAT SHOULD CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIANS CONSERVE?

*This article is written by one in the Mennonite-Anabaptist faith and names some needs identical to ours. We too must conserve what we have been blest to receive. --L.C.*

The 1950's and 1960's saw a realignment of individuals, fellowships, and conferences of Mennonites across North America. As some drifted closer to mainstream America, others stayed closer to the old ways of doing things. Those who opened themselves to popular culture were dubbed *liberal* while those who appreciated the old ways were *conservative*. Lamp and Light Publishers and the churches we associate with are among those who are called *conservative*.

We are unapologetically conservative. But I believe it will do us good to ask ourselves some questions: What are we

conserving? What *should we be* conserving? Are we conserving the right things? Are there some things we *should* conserve that we are missing? Though we cannot make a comprehensive list here, allow us to suggest several core things that conservative Christians must conserve if they are to remain among the people of God.

*We must conserve a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.* Our Anabaptist forefathers insisted on believers' baptism. Baptism of infants unable to believe and repent does not pass the test of Scripture. Church membership without inner spiritual life will not save. Raising your hand at a revival campaign without a corresponding change of life is not enough. An obedient, abiding relationship with Christ is the only way that we can expect entrance into the kingdom of Christ. "Abide in me, and I in you," said Christ to His followers.

*We must conserve separation from the world.* Jesus said that His followers are not of the world; rather, He chose them *out of* the world. A conservative Christian will joyfully do his part to maintain separation from the world in dress, in lifestyle, in aspirations, in speech, in manner--in all of life. Those who conserve separation in this life will be separated on the right side, with the sheep, when the Shepherd makes the final separation on the judgment day.

*We must conserve the Biblical practice of nonresistance.* Christ's way of peace does not make sense to worldly and carnal "Christians." It does not make sense because it goes against the flesh. Nonresistance touches much more than not joining the military. It affects our relationships at home, at church, at work, and in the neighborhood. We will accept wrong rather than inflict harm. We will return good for evil. We will spread peace and goodwill to all we come in contact with.

*We must conserve evangelistic zeal.* The Anabaptists actively reached out to others with the radical message of the

Gospel of Jesus Christ. Their zealous witness not only attracted people to the faith; it also brought on themselves the wrath and persecution of the state churches. Have we conserved that zeal, or do we content ourselves with being the quiet in the land?

*We must conserve strong families.* The devil is bringing a concerted attack against the Christian family. We must conserve the fact that marriage is for life. We must conserve a godly love and desire for children. We must not allow even "good things" to destroy our relationship with our spouses and our children. If the devil wins the battle against the family, we all lose.

*We must conserve strong churches.* It is not God's will that Christians serve Him alone. Individual Christians are nourished, grow, and serve the Lord better in the context of the brotherhood. A coal left by itself on the hearth will soon grow cold.

*We must conserve Bible-based traditions.* Traditional applications of Biblical principles vary from place to place and from church to church. We do not despise others' traditions, and neither do we casually cast off our own. Those who cast off Bible-based traditions invariably take up worldly traditions. Biblical traditions provide a stable environment in which faith and spiritual life may flourish.

*Above all, we must conserve the faith.* Perhaps we could say that all of the previous points work together toward this goal. Losing the things we ought to conserve will eventually tear away the very faith upon which we stand. To say it another way, *liberalism destroys faith*. The world is against faith. Popular culture is against faith. When we allow ourselves to be carried away by the current of the world, we will lose the faith.

"Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

Paul N. Kaufman  
from *The Literature Lamplighter*

## REMEMBER ME

My life is a wreck,  
Ensnared by my sin;  
Caught in the act,  
Stealing again.

Condemned to be killed  
By Rome's iron fist;  
All chance for escape  
By me has been missed.

Screaming with rage,  
Forced down on a cross;  
Iron tearing through flesh,  
All hope is now lost.

I curse and I swear,  
And then lifted high,  
With a thud I'm suspended  
Between earth and sky.

Then midst curses and groans,  
A pleading voice--Who?  
"Father, forgive them,  
They know not what they do."

It was Jesus, the Lord,  
The one with no sin  
Crucified with me,  
The worst of all men.

A faint flicker of hope



Arose in my breast.  
This was the man  
Who said, "Come, I give rest"

I turned to Him there,  
And uttered these words,  
"Lord, remember me, please,"  
Then my vision slowly blurred.

Then, to my dulled senses  
His words set me free!  
"Today thou shalt be  
In Paradise with me."

O glory to God!  
Praise Jesus, His Son,  
The blood of the Lamb,  
For me victory has won!

--Lloyd Wagner, Modesto, California

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#### NOTE OF THANKS

We have been grateful for calls of encouragement. Thank you to all who have lifted us to the Lord in prayer through the last several months. It is difficult to describe all the emotions we have had to deal with--it makes physical problems seem much easier to handle. We trust in God, who is faithful and just, to heal and restore broken spirits.

Ron Pletcher Family

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NEW ADDRESS: Michael Frederick's  
P.O. Box 96,  
Yosemite Nat'l Park, CA 95389  
(209) 372-4422

## OBITUARY

Betty L. (Bowser) Miller, born May 25, 1925 on a farm south of New Lebanon, Ohio, was the first child of Harlan Lee and Zelma (Bowman) Bowser. She passed away unexpectedly in the early morning hours of March 10, 2008, at Good Samaritan Hospital, Dayton, Ohio.

Her childhood years were spent on several farms in the New Lebanon and Farmersville communities. Betty grew up in a close-knit extended family that shared the struggles of life with love and laughter during the Great Depression. There was seldom a time in her childhood that there was not a grandma, an aunt, or an uncle sharing life in their household. In this setting she grew to value the simple pleasure of working together and relaxing over a meal with family. To a remarkable degree, Betty kept the ability to thoroughly appreciate and live in the present moment. She found joy in simple things, and time spent with her often turned into a memorable occasion. Betty eagerly looked forward to visits from her family and delighted in their company.

After graduating from Farmersville High School, Betty worked for NCR in Dayton for several years. On December 31, 1947, Betty and Willard E. Miller were married by Brother Irvin Eikenberry at the Eikenberry home in the Upper Twin District. They began their life together farming in the Bear Creek area and in 1960 relocated to their farm northwest of Brookville.

Feeling the need of a closer walk with God, Betty was baptized on a beautiful, warm day, November 14, 1965, by Brother Samuel Garber into the Old German Baptist Brethren Church. She treasured close fellowship and experienced many special memories in the Wolf Creek congregation.

After Willard's retirement, they enjoyed serving others in various ways. They shared many enjoyable hours traveling in National Parks and spending time with family members while traveling. After Willard's death, Betty continued to make numerous trips to California and Indiana.

She was preceded in death by her husband Willard E. Miller on Oct. 12, 1989, her parents and three brothers: Robert "Bob," Glenn "Bill," and James "Sam" Bowser.

Betty is survived by her two sons and their wives: Randy and Sara, Bill and Marilyn; and four grandchildren: Neal, Leanne, Jonathan, and James. She also leaves one brother: Dale Bowser and his wife Bonnie; two sisters-in-law: Elizabeth Bowser and Dyna Bowser; and a number of nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

The funeral service was held at the Wolf Creek meetinghouse on March 14. Bro. Gary Denlinger opened and Bro. Glenn Mohler gave the message. Burial was in Trissel Cemetery with Bro. Michael Miller conducting the service.

--The Family

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## BAPTISMS

Rachel Frick	Greenville, Ohio	June 22
Clement Martin	New Paris, Indiana	June 22
Ross Martin	New Paris, Indiana	June 22
Louis Miller	Bourbon, Indiana	June 22
Matthias Royer	Goshen, Indiana	June 22
Sophia Royer	Nappanee, Indiana	June 22

Thank God for these young people and their decisions to follow the Lord. May they serve faithfully in the Kingdom.

FOR YOUTH  
Of Inordinate Affections

Whensoever a man desireth any thing inordinately, he becometh presently disquieted in himself.

The proud and covetous can never rest. The poor and humble in spirit dwell in the multitude of peace.

The man that is not yet perfectly dead to himself, is quickly tempted and overcome in small and trifling things.

The weak in spirit, and he that is yet in a manner carnal and prone to the things of sense, can hardly withdraw himself altogether from earthly desires.

And therefore he is often afflicted when he goeth about to withdraw himself from them; and is easily angered when any oppose him.

And if he hath followed his appetite, he is presently disquieted with remorse of conscience; for that he hath yielded to his passion, which profiteth him nothing to the obtaining of the peace which he sought.

True quietness of heart therefore is gotten by resisting our passions, not by obeying them.

There is then no peace in the heart of a carnal man, nor in him that is given to outward things, but in the spiritual and devout man.

From *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas A Kempis

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WHERE DO WE FIND \_\_\_\_\_ ?

1. That man is the head of woman? (I Cor. 11:3)
2. That women should not be preachers? (I Tim. 2:12)
3. That women should not cut their hair? (I Cor. 11:6)
4. That a Christian lady should not wear jewelry? (I Tim. 2:9)



5. That Christian women should have their heads covered? (When they pray or prophesy) (I Cor. 11:5,13)
6. That women are not to wear men's clothing (slacks) and that men are not to wear women's apparel? (Deut. 22:5)
7. That clothing of Christians is to be substantial--not the screen-door, transparent, fig-leaf type? (Gen.3:21 God clothed them.)
8. That the clothing of Christians is to be modest and not attract attention to the body of the wearer? (This includes shorts.) (I Tim. 2:9)
9. That the clothing of Christians is to be low-priced, not expensive? (I Tim. 2:9--Notice other translations.)
10. That the clothing of Christians is not to be patterned after the worldly styles which come from places such as Hollywood and New York? (Rom. 12:2)
11. That Christians are to wear a uniform different from worldly people? (Answer in the above five Scriptures--sex difference, substantial, modest, low-priced, not patterned after the world, which results in a uniform for *plain* people.)

By John J. Overholt

Selected from *Scrapbook of Ideas* #3 by Vera Overholt

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## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### TEN BIBLE OBJECTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. What did Moses have in his hand (Exodus 4:2)?
2. What did the poor widow cast into the treasury (Mark 12:42)?
3. For what did the soldiers at the cross cast lots (Mark 15:24)?
4. With what did David slay the giant Goliath (I Samuel 17:49)?

5. What did Belshazzar see that frightened him greatly (Daniel 5:5,6)?
6. What did God send to shade Jonah from the heat (Jonah 4:6)?
7. With what did Samson slay a thousand men (Judges 15:15)?
8. With what did Boaz pledge his promise to take Ruth as his wife (Ruth 4:7,8)?
9. For what did David long when he was in the cave of Adullam (II Samuel 23:15)?
10. By what did Elijah ascend to heaven (II Kings 2:11)?

From *The Christian Pathway* May, 1977

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## O MAN REDEEMED, FOLD TO THY HEART

O man redeemed, fold to thy heart thy brother:  
Where love prevails, the peace of God is there;  
To worship rightly and to love each other,  
Makes life a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.

For he whom Jesus loved hath truly spoken;  
Love's greater service which He deigns to bless  
Restores the lost, and binds the spirit broken,  
And feeds the widow and the fatherless.

Follow with reverent steps the great example  
Of Him whose work was man's eternal good:  
So shall the wide earth seem our Father's temple,  
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

Then shall all shackles fall: the stormy clamor  
Of wild war music o'er the earth shall cease;  
Love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,  
And in its ashes plant the tree of peace. Amen.

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1847 (1807-1892)  
From *The Christian Hymnary*

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## BRETHREN BEGINNING

*It's about this time of year 300 years ago, when the Brethren Church had its beginning. Celebrations are now going on in Schwarzenau, Germany, in commemoration of that event. In this issue we reprint some of the history that concerns all of the Brethren churches resulting from that beginning.*

The Pietists of Schwarzenau, though they enjoyed protection and good fellowship, were sincerely seeking to know more of God's will. Alexander Mack and others were not satisfied with Pietists' rejection of ordinances commanded in the New Testament. In 1708, Christopher Hochmann was in prison in Nurnburg. The Brethren wrote to him, as their spiritual leader, regarding their intentions to organize and to baptize believers. Hochmann gave his consent, specifying that they should not become sectarian or look down on those who believed differently. With this encouragement, one of the Brethren was chosen to write a letter telling of their plans and hopes, inviting the Pietists of the Palatinate to join with them in their new fellowship.

### A Small Sample from That Letter

"Dear brethren, please have patience with this simple letter, as the dear Savior and Redeemer has patience with all of us, and hears and sustains us in His long suffering.

"I also want to remind the dear brethren that we must publicly profess that which Christ Jesus taught and did without hesitation or fear of men. We need not be ashamed and must above all suffer and endure all things with rejoicing.



"Joy! Joy! More joy! Christ prevents all suffering. Bliss! Bliss! More bliss! Christ is the sum of grace! . . .

"Dear brethren! What is then better than being obedient and not despising the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of all Glory? This, especially as we have left all sects because of misuses concerning infant baptism, communion, and church system, and unanimously profess that they are rather man's statutes and commandments, and therefore do not baptize our children, and testify that we were not really baptized. . .

"So then, if some more brethren wish to begin this high act of baptism with us out of brotherly unity according to the teachings of Christ and the apostles, we announce in humbleness that we are interceding together in prayer and fasting with God. We will choose him whom the Lord gives as the baptizer as God will reveal to us. If we then begin in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus to live according to His commandment, then we can also hold communion together according to the commandment of Christ and His apostles in the fear of the Lord. We now wish from the bottom of our hearts, grace, peace, and love for all brethren, from God our Father in Jesus Christ, His beloved Son, through the Holy Spirit. . ."

(From *European Origins of the Brethren* by Donald Durnbaugh)

This letter was from one of the first eight. It was sent in love with hope that like-minded ones would unite with them. Apparently it did not have much effect because only eight people launched out in the new venture. However, the letter did inform those looking on. Undoubtedly, there were many who were waiting to see what would happen who later did join with the Brethren.

#### **Donald Durnbaugh's Comments About the Record**

"Certain details were deliberately omitted, for example, the name of the person who baptized the leader, Mack, before the

latter baptized the others. They wished to avoid human error, such as honoring men rather than God. They were not interested in the acclaim or recognition of the world. The baptism must have taken place sometime between early August and late September of 1708."

### **Alexander Mack Jr.'s Account Given Him by His Father**

"It pleased the good God in His mercy, early in the beginning of this (18th) century to support His 'grace that bringeth salvation, and which hath appeared to all men,' by many a voice calling them to awake and repent, so that thereby many were aroused from the sleep and death of sin. These began to look around them for the truth and righteousness, as they are in Jesus, but had soon to see with sorrowful eyes the great decay (of true Christianity) almost in every place. From this lamentable state of things they were pressed to deliver many a faithful testimony of truth, and here and there private meetings were established besides the public church organization, in which newly-awakened souls sought their edification. Upon this the hearts of the rulers were embittered by an envious priesthood, and persecutions were commenced in various places, as in Switzerland, Wurtemberg, the Palatinate, Hesse, and other places.

"To those persecuted and exiled persons the Lord pointed out a place of refuge, or a little 'Pella,' in the land of Wittgenstein, where at that time ruled a mild count, and where some pious countesses dwelt. Here liberty of conscience was granted at Schwarzenau, which is within a few miles of Berleberg. And from this cause, though Wittgenstein is a poor and rough country, many people, and those of various kinds, collected at Schwarzenau, and this place, which had been but little esteemed, became so much changed that in a few years it became a place extensively known.

"Those who were brought together here from the persecutions, though they were distinguished by different opinions, and also differed in manners and customs, were still, at first, all called Pietists, and they among themselves called each other brother. But very soon it appeared that the words of Christ, Matthew 18, where He says, 'If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone,' etc., could not be reduced to a proper Christian practice, because there was no regular order yet established in the church. Therefore some returned again to the religious denominations from which they had come out, because they would not be subjected to a more strict Christian discipline; and to others it appeared that the spiritual liberty was carried too far, which was thought to be more dangerous than the religious organizations they had left.

### **Desiring True Baptism**

"Under these circumstances, some felt themselves drawn powerfully to seek the footsteps of the primitive Christians, and desired earnestly to receive in faith the ordained testimonies of Jesus Christ according to their true value. At the same time, they were internally and strongly impressed with the necessity of the obedience of faith to a soul that desired to be saved. And this impression also led them at the time to the mystery of water baptism, which appeared unto them as a door into the church, which was what they so earnestly sought. Baptism, however, was spoken of among the Pietists in very different ways, and the manner in which it was sometimes spoken of caused pain to the heart of those that loved the truth.

"Finally, in the year 1708, eight persons consented together to enter into a covenant of a good conscience with God, to take up all the commandments of Jesus Christ as an easy yoke, and thus to follow the Lord Jesus, their good and faithful Shepherd, in joy and sorrow, as His true sheep, even unto a blessed end. These eight persons were as follows, namely, five brethren and



three sisters. The five brethren were George Grebe from Hesse-Cassel, the first; Lucas Vetter, likewise from Hessia, the second; the third was Alexander Mack from the Palatinate of Schriesheim, between Mannheim and Heidelberg; the fourth was Andrew Bony of Basle in Switzerland; the fifth, John Kipping from Bareit in Wurtemberg. The three sisters were Joanna Noethiger or Bony, the first; Anna Margaretha Mack, the second; and Joanna Kipping, the third.

"These eight persons covenanted and united together as brethren and sisters into the covenant of the cross of Jesus Christ to form a church of Christian believers. And when they had found, in authentic histories, that the primitive Christians, in the first and second centuries, uniformly, according to the command of Christ, were planted into the death of Jesus Christ by a three-fold immersion into the water-bath of holy baptism, they examined diligently the New Testament, and finding all perfectly harmonizing therewith, they were anxiously desirous to use the means appointed and practiced by Christ Himself, and thus according to His own salutary counsel, go forward to the fulfillment of all righteousness.

### **Who Will Baptize?**

"Now the question arose, who should administer the work externally unto them? One of their number, (This, of course, was Mack himself.) who was a leader and speaker of the Word in their meetings, had visited, in sincere love, different congregations of Baptists in Germany, most of which admitted the holy baptism, when performed by an immersion in water and out of love to Christ, was indeed right; but they would also, besides this, maintain that pouring of a handful of water might also do very well, provided all else would be right.

"The conscience, however, of them (the brethren) could not be satisfied with this. They therefore demanded of him, who led in preaching the Word, to immerse them, according to the example of the primitive and best Christians, upon their faith.



But he, considering himself as unbaptized, required first to be baptized of some one of them before he should baptize another. So they concluded to unite in fasting and prayer, in order to obtain of Christ Himself, the founder of all His ordinances, a direction and opening in this matter; for he who was requested to baptize the other, wanted to be baptized by the church of Christ, and the rest had the same desire.

"In this their difficulty they were encouraged by the words of Christ, who has said so faithfully, 'Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.' With such confidence in the precious and sure promise of God, they, under fasting and prayer, cast lots to learn which of the four brethren should baptize that brother who so anxiously desired to be baptized by the church of Christ. They mutually pledged their word that no one should ever divulge who among them had baptized first (according to the lot), in order to cut off all occasion of calling them after any man, because they had found that such foolishness had already been reproved by Paul in his writing to the Corinthians.

*"Being thus prepared, the eight went out together one morning in solitude, to a stream called the Eder, and the brother, upon whom the lot had fallen, baptized first that brother who desired to be baptized by the church of Christ, and when he was baptized, he baptized him by whom he had been baptized, and the remaining three brethren and three sisters. Thus these eight were all baptized at an early hour of the morning.*

### **Be Fruitful and Multiply**

"And after all had come up out of the water, and had changed their garments, they were also at the same time made to rejoice with great inward joyfulness, and by grace they were deeply impressed with these significant words, 'Be fruitful and multiply!' This occurred in the year 1708, but of the day of the month or week, they have left no record.

"After this the said eight persons were more and more powerfully strengthened in their obedience to the faith they had adopted, and were enabled to testify publicly in their meetings to the truth; and the Lord granted them His special grace, so that still more became obedient to the faith, and thus, within seven years' time, namely to the year 1715, there was not only in Schwarzenau a large church, but, here and there in the Palatinate, there were lovers of the truth, and especially was this the case in Marienborn, where a church in the Palatinate was persecuted, and its members then came to Marienborn. And, when the church here became large, it was also persecuted. Then those that were persecuted collected in Crefeld, where they found liberty under the king of Prussia."

From *A History of the Brethren* pp. 35-41

by Martin Grove Brumbaugh

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### BUILDER OR DESTROYER?

*So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.*

--*Nehemiah 4:6*

Today's key verse shows an important factor in building, both physically and spiritually. It says, "The people had a mind to work." Do we have a mind to work? Are we willing to sacrifice time and money for the sake of the church?

We recently built an addition to our church house, and we had a work bee to frame the structure. We came together with one goal--to build the church house. I didn't see anybody there with sledge hammers or chain saws trying to tear down the building.

To spiritually build up God's church we need a united goal. Jesus said, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18). Satan is busy trying to prevail against the church. He loves when brethren have

disagreements. We may look at the faults of others and destroy them with our words. We might feel a brother has done us wrong and so we hold a grudge against him. Sides may be formed in the church and neither side is willing to compromise their personal preferences. God is not pleased with this type of atmosphere in His bride. But Satan is very happy when church members cannot work in a harmonious manner. He uses sly methods to destroy unity in our churches.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1). God is pleased when He sees brethren, in spite of their differences, working together in unity. Let us rise and build!

Are you on the construction crew or on the destruction crew?

Samuel Beachy, Belvidere, Tennessee

Selected by a reader from *Beside the Still Waters*

Used by permission.

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### IMITATION OF CHRIST

*(In the last issue and in this, we have printed short selections from this classic writing. Here we give also the introduction to the book explaining its time and origin. A small copy of this writing was presented to my father by a close friend many years ago. I have it today and may select from it in future Pilgrim issues. -L.C.)*

### PREFATORY NOTE

Old, yet ever new, is the precious volume here placed in the hands of the reader. Pious souls, for well-nigh five hundred years, have found in these pages inspiration, comfort and encouragement. Men of every Christian denomination have turned from the turmoil and discord of the world's arenas to find sweetness and peace in the atmosphere of this volume.



Souls in darkness and in the shadow of death, have derived from it fortitude and new hope. As the very medicine of the soul, it has imparted life and new vigor to the weary and the heavy-laden. The poor dumb spirit, restive under the restrictions of inadequate utterance, hears in its glowing words, its own emotions and aspirations expressed in terms that satisfy its needs. Like the Psalms of David, the *Imitation* seems to find a brotherhood of feeling in every devout soul.

Living long before the Reformation, the keen intellect of A Kempis perceived, as clearly as did Luther, the essential need of the soul for faith and union with Christ, below the forms and ceremonies of ritualism. His intense reverential love for the Saviour filled his heart to overflowing. John Wesley himself, could find no other book so helpful to his converts; and he accordingly issued a translation of it under his own hand. In all lands the *Imitation* has been recognized and hailed as the best aid, outside of the Bible, to devotion; and when some years ago a collection of the various translations and versions was made at Cologne, it was found that the languages and dialects in which it had been given to the world, exceeded five hundred. Such a work can never lose its value; and will, we firmly believe, be as helpful to the Christian of the twentieth century, as it was to the Christians who first welcomed it five centuries ago.

### OF OBEDIENCE AND SUBJECTION

It is a great matter to live in obedience, to be under a superior and not to be at our own disposing.

It is much safer to obey than to govern.

Many live under obedience, rather for necessity than for love; such are discontented, and do easily repine. Neither can they attain to freedom of mind, unless they willingly and heartily put themselves under obedience for the love of God.



Go whither thou wilt, thou shalt find no rest, but in humble subjection under the government of a superior. Many have deceived themselves, imagining to find happiness in change.

2. True it is, that every one willingly doeth that which agreeth with his own liking, and inclineth most to those that are of his own mind.

But if God be amongst us, we must sometimes cease for the sake of peace to adhere to our own opinion.

Who is so wise that he can fully know all things.

Be not therefore too confident in thine own opinion; but be willing to hear the judgment of others.

If thy thought be good, and yet thou partest with it for God, and followest the opinion of another, this shall turn to thy good.

3. I have often heard, that it is safer to hear and to take counsel, than to give it.

It may also fall out, that a man's opinion may be good; but to refuse to yield to others when reason or a special cause requireth it, is a mark of pride and stiffness.

By Thomas A Kempis

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## NOTES OF THANKS

I would like to thank everyone for their love and well wishes I received during my hip surgery and recuperation. Your prayers were appreciated. God bless each one.

Mary Lavy

Dear Brethren and Sisters,

We want to thank you for your prayers, cards, gifts, and financial generosity during the past months of Cyrus's sickness. You have been an encouragement to us.

Praying that God would bless you,

Allen, Carletta Hilty and Family

## MARRIAGE

MARTIN-KELLER Micah Martin and Laura Keller were married July 12 in Dallas Center, Iowa.

New address: 69113 C.R. 23  
New Paris IN 46553  
(574) 831-6322

## ADDRESS ADDITION

Michael and Amy Martin 19114 N. Rock Rd  
New Paris, IN 46553  
(574) 831-3121

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## FOR YOUTH

## Cream of Tartar

"Mother, what does cream of tartar do in the angel food cake?" Sherry asked as she carefully measured 1 1/2 teaspoons of cream of tartar and dumped it into the egg whites she was beating.

"Cream of tartar is a stabilizer, making the beaten egg whites better able to stand in high peaks," Mother answered. "It helps the egg whites hold up in high heat, too."

"Where does cream of tartar come from?" Sherry's twin brother Jerry wanted to know.

"Go look it up in the encyclopedia," Mother suggested.

Jerry was soon back, ready to report his findings. "The encyclopedia says cream of tartar is made from calcifications in wine. It is the hard, crusty pieces that form in wine. Men have learned how to turn the calcifications into a soft, white powder to be used in cooking."

"Hmm, I just had a thought," Mother said. "Maybe we should be like cream of tartar."

"How could WE be like cream of tartar?" Sherry wondered.

"I know!" Jerry said. "We could encourage people who are droopy and discouraged. We could help them stand up to the high heat of their troubles. Is that what you're thinking about, Mother?"

"That's it," Mother answered. "Now, can you think of ways we can do that?"

"Maybe by sending cards and letters to lonely people," Sherry suggested. "Or taking a meal to a busy family."

"By sharing money with people who need it." Jerry added.

"Or, just by saying an encouraging word to people." Mother said. "It doesn't take much cream of tartar in an angel food cake, and just a little word of encouragement could do a lot to strengthen someone's faith."

"Oh, I think it'll be fun to see how many ways we can be cream of tartar in people's lives. I think I'll start as soon as this cake is in the oven. Grandma gets lonely, and I'll write a letter to her," Sherry said enthusiastically.

"And I'll go offer to mow Mrs. Jasper's lawn for her. May I, Mother?" Jerry contributed.

"Yes, you may," Mother answered. "But remember, twins, that sometimes it is people in your own family that need some cream of tartar. Perhaps even your little brothers and sisters."

"We'll remember," the twins said together.

Linda Frick, Gettysburg, Ohio

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### TRUE LIFE

Despair and awe, it held me there.  
The awful scene I could not part.  
A blackness came and filled the air.  
It crept into my inmost heart.  
Three hours long the darkness waits  
To see the end--the dreadful fate.

To me He was so close, so dear.  
No one His place could ever fill.  
He bore the shame, the jaunting jeer.  
I loved Him with my heart and will.  
Now crucified, He's nearly dead.  
My hope is gone. My heart's as lead.

They lay Him in an unused tomb.  
With linen cloth they cover Him.  
For me, it is the final doom.  
All happiness--it grows so dim.  
Forever long the darkness lies.  
This way 'twill be until I die.

Behold, a shout comes 'cross the way.  
He lives! He lives! He lives once more!  
It sounds across the break of day.  
Have I yet something to live for?  
He's standing there with robe so white!  
My heart is filled with glorious light!

Lora Huffman  
Dayton, Ohio

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### CHILDREN'S PAGE

"I Want That."

"I want that truck!" insisted Danny, trying to grab it from Carol.

"No, I do!" screamed Carol, holding fast with all her might.  
Carol hit Danny.

Danny hit Carol back.

"Oh-h-h," cried Carol. "Danny hit me!"



"Children," Grandpa said sternly. "Is that a nice way for you to treat each other? Come here, and I will tell you a story."

Danny looked up, forgetting about the truck. "A story?" he questioned eagerly, his eyes shining.

"I like stories," said Carol.

Carol sat on one of Grandpa's knees. Danny perched on the other.

"Many years ago," began Grandpa, "there was a little boy just as old as you, Danny. We will call him Robert."

"That's your name, isn't it Grandpa?" Danny interrupted eagerly.

"Yes, it is," Grandpa nodded.

He went on. "Robert had a little sister just as old as Carol. We will call her Jane.

"Robert and Jane lived on a nice big farm. There was a sparkling pond right beside the pretty green yard. Robert and Jane liked to play together.

"One day Robert and Jane were playing tag in the yard. Robert was 'it.' Jane ran around the pond, and Robert chased her. Finally he touched Jane.

"You're 'it,'" he called.

"No, I'm not," Jane declared.

"You are, too," Robert cried. With that, he gave her a big push. Jane fell right into the pond.

"She started screaming and calling for help. Robert was afraid. He ran for Mother and help."

"Did they get her out?" wondered Carol.

"Yes, they got her out," Grandpa answered soberly, "but it was too late." He paused for a moment. "Jane had already drowned."

Danny and Carol looked up at Grandpa with wide eyes. He had a faraway look in his eyes.

"Oh," said Danny. "Robert was a naughty boy, wasn't he, Grandpa?"

"Yes, he was," Grandpa said. "And he didn't have his little sister to play with anymore."

A thought struck Danny. "Grandpa," he asked softly, "was that little boy you?"

"Yes," Grandpa answered sadly. "It never pays to be unkind. You must learn to be kind to each other. The Bible says, 'Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.'"

Carol and Danny looked at each other soberly. "I'm sorry," they said together.

"I'm glad I have a sister to play with," said Danny.

They slipped off Grandpa's knee.

Grandpa smiled to himself as he heard them playing. "Here, Carol," said Danny, "you may have this truck to play with."

"No, you may have it," answered Carol. "I can play with this other one."

From *Wee Lambs*, October 17, 1971

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# THE PILGRIM

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## SUSAN GOES TO SCHOOL

She's gone to school, my Susan,  
So tiny, just turned six,  
And oh, the house is empty,  
The clock, how loud it ticks!  
No laughter in the garden,  
No swinging of the gate,  
Just quietness and order  
And a fire upon the grate.

She's gone to school, my Susan,  
In dress not worn before,  
To learn the art of letters,  
And dip in ancient lore;  
She's eager for the future,  
And sturdy for her size;  
But, oh, the heart is weary  
Before the head is wise!

She's gone to school, my Susan,  
So sweet and unafraid,  
Her shoes are new and shiny,  
Her brown hair in a braid;  
And here where she's been happy  
A little prayer I pray,  
"God bless the host of Susans  
Agone to school today."

*From The Christian School Builder*

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## TOWARD BETTER SPEECH

Jesus probably spoke with the accent of a Galilean. And we are sure Peter did. Galilee, when Jesus was here was not the best place to be from. It was a poor country and the home of wretched people, according to the orthodox Judaeans. ("Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?") The speech of a Galilean identified Peter and was not an asset in Jerusalem.

Part of our Christian testimony is our speech. While we know that words are of little value if our lives are not true, speech from a sincere heart can be a valuable tool for Christ. It can also be an instrument of evil. Our language can be eloquent, in perfect English, and using the best choice of words but still useless as a Christian testimony. Or it can be simple and plain--perhaps poorly pronounced--but from a heart of love, and of great value.

Our speech can betray us and our inner thoughts just as surely as Peter's speech identified him as a Galilean. Jesus told the Pharisees,

*"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, They shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."*  
(Matthew 12:34-37)

James describes the tongue this way:

*"And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body,*



*and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." (James 3:6)*

Perhaps the most common way we can sin against God and our fellowmen is with our tongues. James says in the same chapter (verse 2) ". . . If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body."

How can we easily "offend in word"? How can we use speech to the glory of God?

Gossip is the bad habit common to men and women and all too prevalent among Christians. We may think we are giving needed information when the story would be better untold. This poem by an unknown author tells it well:

### THREE GATES

If I am tempted to reveal  
A tale someone to me has told  
About another, let it pass,  
Before I speak, three gates of gold.

Three narrow gates: First, is it true:  
Then, is it needful? In my mind  
Give truthful answer, and the next  
Is last and narrowest, Is it kind?

And if, to reach my lips at last,  
It passes through these gateways, three,  
Then I may tell the tale, nor fear  
What the result of speech may be.

May God help us to train our tongues in this important area.

In Christian circles we rarely hear outright cursing, but most of us are guilty of using poor and unnecessary words. "Slang" can creep into the Christian's speech as a way to make a point or emphasize a thought. Many of the slang words are really substitutes for the wrong, irreverent swear words. Jesus said,

"But let your communication be, Yea, yea: Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." (Matt. 5:37)

Many times we are willing to speak for the Lord and can't find the right words. God will help us when we ask Him. Jesus told His disciples when He sent them out, that they would be brought before governors and kings for His sake and that they should "... take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." (Matt. 10:19-20) What a comfort to know we are not on our own, that God's Spirit will speak for us! But let us not use this excuse for being unfamiliar with God's Word. Paul writes in II Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Failure to speak when it is necessary is just as harmful as poor words. We tend to take Cain's lame excuse: "Am I my brother's keeper?" God tells us to warn, to call, to invite, and to be ready with an answer for those who enquire. Road maintenance men post signs and flashing signals, and set flag men to warn of dangers in the way ahead. How much more should we warn of the destruction to come for those walking the broad way.

I find myself telling with enthusiasm about a trip or a fire or some thrilling experience. But when it comes to relating our joys in the Lord, it is easy to keep still. We discuss at length people's sickness and troubles but how much their soul sickness and spiritual problems? Satan would have us be silent when we should speak.

We can claim we are unable to talk well, but God's answer to Moses is for us too: "... Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord?" (Exodus 4:11)

James says that man can tame the beasts and serpents and birds, "But the tongue can no man tame. . ." But we believe God can tame our wild tongues and bring them into subjection to His will if we commit our way to Him.

Psalm 35:28: "And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long." --L.C.

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### CLOSED LIPS

Oh happy day that ends at night  
O'er lips that have been closed so tight,  
That not one word of hurt has passed  
And memories sweet alone will last.

Of all the servants given man,  
According to God's own great plan,  
There's one we'll never understand--  
Our tongue, which says words never planned.

Our feet we guide with greater skill,  
Though seldom would they do us ill.  
Our hands and eyes, trained most to please,  
We guide them both with greater ease.

But ears and tongue, oh woe betide,  
The secrets you to them confide,  
For if one moment you're off guard  
All caution they will both discard.

Please lock my lips and hide the key,  
Until each word well judged shall be;  
And then I'll know, when in my bed  
No ones been hurt by what I've said.

Author Unknown

## SCIENCE FOR GOD'S GLORY

Science is an orderly study of the things created by God. An obvious benefit of science is learning to wisely use this natural world. But our goals should be beyond that.

Studying science should give students a bank of knowledge that contributes to a godly lifestyle when they are adults. For instance, a good upper-grade science course will introduce enough basic cell science to prepare for a reasonable understanding of its implications later on. With the rapid advance of medical research today, Christians can be confronted very suddenly with recommendations that militate against the sanctity of human life. But even a simple understanding of cell science can prepare one to face such choices in a God-fearing way. In another area, due to escalating health-care costs, many people are choosing alternate health care. A well-rounded background of life science could help those adults make prudent choices.

In the study of science, God should always receive the credit, because He made the universe (including its information). But as man learns new things, he tends to honor the scientific discoverers or the discoveries themselves. In the 1800's and 1900's, men came to revere science as an absolute in itself. Although this absolute may be based on unchanging laws that God ordained, it still constitutes a rejection of God. Consequently, traditional science itself is deteriorating.

Christian textbooks and teachers should endeavor to give glory to God for everything about science. Do not make much ado over the various discoverers of scientific laws. References to "great scientists" and "amazing discoveries" should be minimized. Rather, glorify the Maker, who knew all along what man has merely uncovered.



In recent years, many people are realizing that science fails to satisfy the need of their heart. But instead of turning to their Maker, they are shifting to postmodern values and concepts. These ideas replace fundamental absolutes with new self-created "absolutes" such as experience, imagination, and entertainment. The result is a fertile seedbed for pseudoscience and the tabloid culture, as evidenced by magazines found in the checkout lanes of many stores. Such literature fits into the category of "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Genesis 6:5)

Tabloid articles generally have eye-catching titles that boldly defy conventional understanding, such as "Earth No Longer Rotates." Some readers may identify such statements as fiction, but some may not. Either way, a factual frame of reference is warped--enough so that many educational authorities today are lamenting the destructive effects. One result is writers and workers who try to develop serious ideas, but develop ones that are fundamentally flawed because of a warped basis.

This influence reaches far beyond the tabloid readership. For example, recently I scanned through two books. One tried to tie certain world events to the Mayan calendar. The other discussed current terror threats. Both books had some very interesting ideas, but some of the underlying premises were so badly flawed that the best place for the books was the trash can.

Another book claimed that certain Bible verses say the earth does not rotate at all nor revolve around the sun (geocentrism). Such ideas may seem like efforts to take the Bible literally, and we do not want to discourage that. However, closer examination reveals sensationalism without substance. One outstanding error is that of using an ultra-literal interpretation for some verses, but failing to apply the same principle to other verses. For example, the statement "The world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved" (Psalm 93:1) is used to claim that the earth does not physically move. But if

the same principle is applied to a clause like "He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved" (Psalm 55:22), one will need to conclude that the righteous are always physically stationary. Plainly, such verses use poetic wording to describe being stable and not wandering from the right course. We must be especially wary of interpretations based on the selective use of Bible verses out of context. Such methods prepare a seedbed for wrong interpretation of Bible doctrines that seriously matter.

These examples demonstrate the need for caution in selecting supplemental science resources. In addition to the decay in contemporary times, the advent of self-publishing has produced many new books that lack the screening and authentication offered by traditional publishing. So be especially careful with resources published after 2000.

The postmodern esteem for entertainment should move us to exercise propriety in things like science experiments. The purpose of experiments is to assist in teaching science concepts. Prepare adequately, and focus on understanding the concept and not on the performance or the diversion. This minimizes the potential for silliness or entertainment.

May God help our studies in science to be for His glory.

By Samuel Hoover in *Curriculum News and Cues*  
Rod and Staff Publishers, Inc. Used by permission.

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### IMITATION OF CHRIST

#### Of Thinking Humbly of Ourselves

All men naturally desire knowledge; but what availeth knowledge without the fear of God?

Surely, an humble husbandman that serveth God, is better than a proud philosopher who, neglecting himself, is occupied in studying the course of the heavens.

Whoso knoweth himself, is lowly in his own eyes, and delighteth not in the praises of men.

If I understood all things in the world, and had not charity, what would it avail me in the sight of God, who will judge me according to my deeds?

2. Cease from an inordinate desire of knowledge, for therein is much distraction and deceit.

Learned men are anxious to seem learned to others, and to be called wise.

There be many things to know which doth little or nothing to profit the soul: And he is very unwise who minds other things more than those that tend to his salvation.

Many words do not satisfy the soul; but a good life comforteth the mind, and a pure conscience giveth great confidence toward God.

3. The more thou knowest, and the better thou understandest, the more strictly shalt thou be judged, unless thy life be also the more holy.

Be not therefore elated in thine own mind because of any art or science, but rather let the knowledge given thee make thee afraid.

If thou thinkest that thou understandest and knowest much; yet know that there be many more things which thou knowest not.

Affect not to be overwise, but rather acknowledge thine own ignorance.

Why wilt thou prefer thyself before others, seeing there be many more learned, and more skilful in the Scripture than thou?

If thou wilt know or learn anything profitably, desire to be unknown, and to be little esteemed.

4. The highest and most profitable lesson is the true knowledge and lowly esteem of ourselves.

It is great wisdom and perfection to think nothing of ourselves, and to think always well and highly of others.



If thou shouldest see another openly sin, or commit some heinous offence, yet oughtest thou not to think the better of thyself; for thou knowest not how long thou shalt be able to stand.

We are all frail, but do thou esteem none more frail than thyself.

By Thomas A Kempis

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### ANOTHER HARD TIME

*The following is part of an article from the September, AARP Bulletin warning about our perilous financial stress. The writer compares our time to the 30's just before the depression that affected so many people including some of our parents and grandparents. --L.C.*

This is another hard time. Undermining our natural strengths are a viral combination of a record national debt now approaching \$10 trillion; a federal budget deficit projected this year at \$492 billion, but likely closer to \$700 billion; a staggering foreign trade deficit; and exhausted savings accounts. The average American household is now buried under mortgage debt of \$84,911, car and tuition loans of \$14,414, home equity loans of \$10,062 and credit card debt of \$8,565--in sum, outstanding debt totaling \$117,952. According to other Federal Reserve statistics, average household savings this year are a mere \$392. The spiraling collapse of the housing market, the mortgage market and now the broader credit market was triggered by a cavalier attitude to thrift, a preoccupation with short-term gain at the expense of long-term, and bankers seeking high profits rather than sound investments. My grandfather would have had something to say about that...

By Jim Toedtman

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Backsliding begins when knee-bending stops. --Selected



## A SELF-EXAMINATION TEST

1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence? 4. Can I be trusted?
5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?
6. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
7. Did the Bible live in me today?
8. Do I give it time to speak to me every day?
9. Am I enjoying prayer?
10. When did I last speak to someone else of my faith?
11. Do I pray about the money I spend?
12. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
13. Do I disobey God in anything?
14. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
15. Am I defeated in any part of my life?
16. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
17. How do I spend my spare time? 18. Am I proud?
19. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisee who despised the Publican?
20. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward, or disregard?
21. Do I grumble or complain constantly?
22. Is Christ real to me?

--Author Unknown

(These are the 22 questions the members of John Wesley's Holy Club asked themselves each day in their private devotions over 200 years ago.)

From *Scrapbook of Ideas* #3 by Vera Overholt

## OBITUARY OF ESTHER MARIE COVER

ESTHER MARIE HITCH was born in Modesto, California, to Earl and Mary Hitch, on June 10, 1918. She went to be with the Lord on August 15, 2008, being 90 years, 2 months, and 5 days. Her husband Rudy, her parents, one brother William, one sister Barbara, one grandchild, and two great grandchildren, preceded her in death.

Mom chose Jesus Christ as her Savior and Lord at the age of 17, and was baptized and united with the Old Brethren Church along with several others, including her husband-to-be, Rudy Cover. In 1968, Mom and Dad transferred their membership to the Dunkard Brethren Church. She served the Lord faithfully all of her Christian life.

Esther Hitch married Rudolph Cover on June 10, 1936, on her 18th birthday. They were together 71 years, celebrating their 50th and then their 60th anniversaries, with many loved ones present.

She is survived by their three daughters: Marilyn Coning and her husband Melvin of Goshen, Indiana; Letha Wagner and her husband Joseph of Modesto, California; and Linda Cordrey of Modesto, California; 12 grandchildren, 58 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren.

Our family lived on a goat dairy on Carver Road in Modesto, California, and in 1946 we moved to Long Barn, California. 1954 found us in Oakhurst, California, and in 1959, on an apple ranch in Tuolumne, California, to settle for awhile. We camped in the woods many summers on location of Dad's timber work. No matter where we lived, Mom enjoyed cooking and keeping things neat and clean. Our home was filled with joy and good times. Mom was a generous and hospitable person, and our table often included from one to ten extra people. She was expert at writing letters and sending cards of

encouragement and news to her own family as well as her church family and friends. She loved to sing, and even sang up to the last few months of her life. At times, even though her mind was confused, the words of hymns were there, along with her lovely alto voice.

In their retiring years, Mom and Dad moved back to Modesto where they served the church and traveled as often as they could. They delivered greeting cards to independent grocery stores throughout Mariposa, Stanislaus, and Fresno Counties.

Mom was a good mother and loved her family dearly. She always set a premier example of friendship, clean living, telling the truth, and orderliness. She had a gift for remembering names and details, and thoroughly enjoyed conversation, reaching out to others less fortunate than herself.

Mom will be greatly missed by her family, church, relatives and friends. We know that to be "present with the Lord" was where she wanted to be. To know that she is now with her loved ones. . . healthy and free from pain is a joy to us, and we look forward to joining her when our time comes.

A funeral service was held August 20, in the Modesto Dunkard Brethren Church conducted by grandsons Elders Lloyd Wagner and Mark Cordrey. Burial was in Wood Colony Cemetery with Elder Henry Walker officiating.

The family wishes to thank all who brought food, prayed, sang, or helped in any way. May God bless you.

--The Family

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#### WHEN WE SEE CHRIST

It will be worth it all When we see Jesus,  
Life's trials will seem so small When we see Christ;  
One glimpse of His dear face All sorrow will erase,  
So bravely run the race Till we see Christ.

Esther Kerr Rusthoi

## BAPTISM

Edith Cover    Tuolumne, California    August 17

May God guide this dear young sister to faithfully serve in  
the Kingdom of God.

---

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Andrew Cable                      64900 Cedar Road  
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FOR YOUTH  
THE REFINER'S FIRE

He sat by a furnace of seven-fold heat,  
As He watched by the precious ore,  
And closer He bent with a searching gaze,  
As He heated it more and more.

He knew He had ore that could stand the test  
And He wanted the finest gold  
To mold as a crown for the King to wear,  
Set with gems of price untold.

So He laid our god in the burning fire,  
Though we fain would say Him, "Nay,"  
And watched the dross that we had not seen,  
As it melted and passed away.



And the gold grew brighter and yet more bright,  
But our eyes were dim with tears  
We saw but the fire, not the Master's hand,  
And questioned with anxious fears.

Yet our gold shone out with a richer glow,  
As it mirrored a Form above,  
That bent o'er the fire, though unseen by us,  
With a look of ineffable love.

Can we think it pleases His loving heart,  
To cause us a moment's pain?  
Ah, no! but He sees through the present cross  
The bliss of eternal gain.

So He waited there with a watchful eye,  
With a love that is strong and sure,  
And His gold did not suffer a bit more heat,  
Than was needed to make it pure.

Author Unknown

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### CHILDREN'S PAGE

#### Getting Out of the Cage

Sweet little Betty was sad. Mother noticed it. Daddy noticed it. Older sister Neva noticed it. What made Betty sad?

Betty knew why she was sad. She had told a lie! Then to cover up that lie, she had told a second lie! Betty knew it was wrong to lie. Her parents had carefully taught her that she must always tell the truth. But now that she'd lied--twice, even--she felt like she was penned in a cage with no way out to happiness. Betty thought about what her mother had read to her lately. The piece in the paper said that if a bumblebee should be

dropped in a drinking glass, it would be there until it dies, even though the top of the glass is open. It doesn't look up to see the way it could escape. It keeps struggling to escape through the sides of the glass near the bottom until it dies.

*"I guess I'm like that bee," she thought. "But I don't see an opening at the top of my cage. What can I do to be happy again?"*

Sunday morning came, and sad Betty went with her family to church. There she heard the answer to her question. The kind minister said, so plainly that even little Betty could understand, that if we have sinned, confession is the way to make things right again. Confession--telling the person she'd lied to--that she HAD lied, and saying she was sorry. Betty was sorry, and she was ready to fly out of the open top of the cage! Immediately after church, she found Aunt Bea. "Aunt Bea," she began. "I did throw the ball that broke your lamp, and I'm sorry I lied about it."

"You are forgiven," Aunt Bea said kindly.

Suddenly, Betty was a free, happy little girl!

Linda Frick

Gettysburg, Ohio

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## CHRIST THE LORD COMETH!

Christ the Lord cometh? perchance at the dawn,  
Where earth awaketh to welcome the morn;  
Hath He not told us the hour draweth near;  
Watching and ready His summons to hear.

Christ the Lord cometh? earth's evening may bring  
Back to His vineyard our Saviour and King;  
Death shall be conquered and sin overthrown;  
When He returneth to gather His own.

Christ the Lord cometh? man knoweth not when,  
But when ye think not He cometh again;  
To all found watching He bringeth no fear,  
Never a shadow, a parting, a tear.

Jesus is coming! we know not how soon,  
Coming at midnight, at morning or noon;  
Evening may bring Him to bear us away;  
For Him I'm watching and waiting each day.

By E. G. Wesley in *The Christian Hymnal*

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## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

He didn't ask to be born. His life had not been pleasant. His parents had given him many luxurious things that money could buy. They had let him choose his own clothes. He had his distinct likes and dislikes in food. He had friends. But somehow all these had not made him happy. Now he was in trouble with the law. The police had caught him and his comrades in a robbery. In the arrest the officer read to them their rights according to the law.

Rights! Everybody has rights, or so they claim. Do children have rights? Were there some things this boy missed out on that he really needed and had a right to have? Who failed? Whose fault was it that he was now in trouble? Do children need to be bored--dissatisfied, looking for something more thrilling? What rights are there that, if given to children, will make happy and useful Christian youth?

*Children have a right to be loved--loved enough to be disciplined.* All too often we see parents in public treating their children like untrained dogs. Loving, consistent discipline works. Shouting and giving children a countdown doesn't. Blessed is the child that has persistent parents who can use "the rod" when needed, and then comfort the child in their arms, assuring him he is loved and precious. Caring parents will follow the Lord's example and instruction in correcting their erring children. "For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth" (Proverbs 3:12).

*Children have a right to a true example.* If children are expected to "obey (their) parents in the Lord," then they have a right to godly parents giving fair instructions to obey. They have a right to parents who are stable and consistent, teaching



their children order and giving them routine chores and regular mealtimes. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

*Children have a right to know the truth.* Jesus said that God's Word is truth. One outstanding advantage of the Christian school is the opportunity to teach every subject in relation to God's Word. Children have a right to know the truth of creation and of God's directing all of human history. God made the laws of gravity, inertia, and friction. He set the rules of mathematics and knows the answer to every question.

Those with only an earthly outlook maintain that children have a right to clean air, pure water, and undepleted resources. But clean air will not help children if their atmosphere is polluted by swear words, dirty jokes, immodest clothing, idleness and extravagance. Clean water will not replace the pure Word of God. All the resources of the earth are not worth "the pearl of great price" which is a place in God's family with the resources of His grace and mercy.

*Children have a right to be taught a wholesome attitude toward work.* Should a child or young person be required to do work he does not enjoy? Hoeing weeds is not exactly fun. Neither is picking up toys, doing dishes, or sweeping out the car. But there are satisfying rewards for honest labor that go beyond the work itself, such as responsibility, contentment, usefulness, and submission. One young man told some children who were unwilling workers, "You eat here, don't you?"

*Children have a right to have difficult decisions made for them.* Many children are forced to make choices they are unqualified to make--what to wear, what to eat, who their friends will be. Some must even choose which parent they will live with. Parents who take responsibility for decision making during their children's formative years are sparing them needless

pressures and are providing for them an important sense of security.

*Children have a right to be taught proper manners, to say "Please" and "Thank-you." They have a right to be kept clean and be taught personal hygiene--"Wash your hands." "Brush your teeth." They have a right to good music, and to be encouraged to memorize Christian songs and precious Bible verses. They should be given an appreciation of the beauties of nature, an example of kindness to the elderly and of reaching out to the needy. Children given these rights will not be a liability to society or in the hands of the police, but will be bright stars in God's glorious future. --L.C.*

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## THE CROSS

*Gal. 2:20 -- I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

In the cross of Jesus Christ we see three spiritual forces at work: man's depravity, God's judgment, and God's love. Our fallen, depraved nature is drawn to sin and rebellion like a moth to a flame. The Scripture tells us that all our righteousness is nothing more than a filthy rag. For this we deserve the judgment of God. What God offers us instead is His mercy and love.

Throughout the Old Testament Scriptures God warned Israel of the consequences of ignoring His Law and continuing in sin. Many times God warned Israel of impending judgment, often in the form of heathen nations like Babylon who

oppressed, conquered, and enslaved the people. Though God often punished these heathen nations for their cruelty, He made it clear that these ungodly nations were instruments used to judge Israel for rebellion and impenitence.

But judgment is not just an Old Testament phenomenon. In Hebrews we read, "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

There is no honor in being crucified. In the time of Christ, the cross was an instrument of torture and death reserved for the common criminal. Because the crucified criminal was not mortally injured by the nails driven through his hands and feet, death came slowly over a matter of hours. In addition, crucifixion was one of the most shameful deaths a man could endure. Often the criminal was stripped of his clothes before being nailed to the cross.

Jesus Christ was afforded no respect or compassion when He was crucified. The Roman soldiers who taunted Him, hit Him, scourged Him, and put a crown of thorns on His head extended no mercy to Christ. His closest disciples abandoned and denied Him. The scribes and Pharisees who ought to have worshiped Him as Messiah spat on Him, mocked Him, and called for His death. The crowd, some of whom undoubtedly had witnessed His miracles and heard His words, cried for Him to be crucified. No other man was rejected so completely by every segment of humanity as was Jesus Christ. And finally, every one of us has also rejected Him through our sin, our apathy, and our pride. Yet still He calls us to follow Him and He will give us rest; He will give us peace; He will give us life. In essence, Jesus Christ promises us the very things that we



actively tried to deprive Him of when He was here on this earth. What mercy! What love! What forgiveness!

What does the cross mean to us? As Christ's followers, it is a central theme of our daily life. We who bear the cross must allow the cross to bear us. It is one thing to carry the cross of Christ as Simon did on the road to Calvary. It is quite another to allow our selfish nature with all of its desires, hopes, and aspirations to be nailed to the cross and be forever lost. If any part of our Christian walk is burdensome, it could indicate an area of our life that we have not crucified yet.

Eddie Wagner Modesto, California

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### GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU

A hymn, published in 1905 entitled, "God Will Take Care of You," was written by a pastor and his wife, W. Stillman and Civilla Martin. They were inspired by one of their children. As Martin was scheduled to leave for a preaching engagement, his wife lay very ill in bed. He considered canceling the engagement, but his son piped up, "Father, don't you think that if God wants you to preach today, He will take care of Mother while you are away?" Needless to say, he didn't cancel the engagement, and upon his return home, his wife was completely well. They both were so touched by their young boy's faith they collaborated and wrote the lovely hymn. It is a reminder to us to simply trust the Lord through all circumstances.

Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you;  
Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you.

Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of  
you;  
When dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you.



All you may need He will provide, God will take care of you;  
Nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you.

No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you;  
Lean, weary one, upon His breast, God will take care of you.

Chorus:

God will take care of you, Through every day, O'er all the way;  
He will take care of you, God will take care of you.

*Media Spotlight --Selected*

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### IMITATION OF CHRIST Of the Profit of Adversity

It is good that we have sometimes some troubles and crosses; for they often make a man enter into himself, and consider that he is here in banishment, and ought not to place his trust in any worldly thing.

It is good that we be sometimes contradicted, and that men think ill or inadequately; and this, although we do and intend well.

These things help often to the attaining of humility, and defend us from vain glory: for then we are more inclined to seek God for our inward witness, when outwardly we be contemned by men, and when there is not credit given unto us.

And therefore a man should settle himself so fully in God, that he need not to seek many comforts of men.

When a good man is afflicted, tempted, or troubled with evil thought; then he understandeth better the great need he hath of God, without whom he perceiveth he can do nothing that is good.

Then also he sorroweth, lamenteth, and prayeth, by reason of the miseries he suffereth.

Then he is weary of living longer, and wisheth that death would come, that he might depart and be with Christ.

Then also he well perceiveth, that perfect security and full peace cannot be had in this world.

Thomas A Kempis

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### IF YOUR DAYS SEEM DULL AND ENDLESS. . .

"She ruined my day by what she said to me," mourned a woman speaking of a neighbor.

Evidently the woman had carried the neighbor's words as "scenery" for her mind from sunup till sundown. What a poor background for a busy day!

She might have chosen a poem, a child's face smiling up at his mother, or some clean-washed beauty of nature instead. But she chose to *ruin her own day* by staring at a few unworthy words emblazoned on the "billboard" of her mind.

Another woman learned to fill her mental background every day with inspiring views painted in fresh colors. She says, "Yesterday there was a large ocean painting on exhibition in the window of an art store, and I carried it in my mind all day.

"The day was full of little annoyances and rushes to get things done, but every little while I thought of the great green waves and the sun shining on the ocean and I felt refreshed.

"Today the fruits piled on a cart passing by gave me a good feeling of abundance and a flash of color. The thought of those golden oranges, dusky plums, smooth yellow grapefruits, red grapes, and velvety brown pears all heaped together and running over with color, brightened all the hours."

A man's mind can ruin or save his day--his life. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs 23:7)

Saturate your mind with envy and you are hateful and unhappy. Think solely about yourself and you are constantly

piqued and peeved by others. Tie your mind to your routine and you are bored.

You owe yourself a refreshing scene for your mind daily. A view of nature may refresh you. But a nugget of truth from God's Word can do more. It can clear away the soiled goods of human imagination.

Christ said, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you" (John 15:3).

"O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97). "How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee" (Psalm 139:17,18).

You have only yourself to blame if you carry unpleasant pictures in your mind. You can change the pictures in your mental gallery without moving from your chair or leaving your kitchen or office. Tighten your mental belt! Capture a truth from God's Word to illuminate your day.

From *Just for You* No. 28

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## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VIEWS

### Lessons from the Master Teacher

Once when the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to take Jesus, the officers returned with these words: "Never man spake like this man" (John 7:46). If we would teach others, we ought to sit daily at the feet of the Master Teacher and learn from His example.

*Jesus had perfect knowledge of His subject and of His students.* To Nicodemus He declared, "We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen" (John 3:11). We will never understand our subjects as well as our omniscient Master did. Yet we must know what we teach and teach what we know, or our teaching will be in vain. Just as it is required in

stewards that a man be found faithful, so it is required of teachers to be found knowledgeable. If we do not yet have a good understanding of the subjects we teach, we must apply ourselves to a study of them. Can we say, "We speak that we do know?"

Having some knowledge of those we teach is also essential. Jesus could respond perfectly in every situation, because he knew all men, "And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man" (John 2:24). A teacher who loves his students will quickly learn to sense their misunderstandings, fears, and needs.

*Jesus served under the direction of another.* He came, not to seek His own will, but the will of His Father (John 5:30). Faithful teachers must likewise remember that they are not their own. We owe our first allegiance unto God, the source of all Truth. We are also responsible to those over us. Do we fret when we cannot have our own way? If so, we need to return to our Master's feet and meditate on His example as a servant. No one is fit to teach until he has learned to submit to others.

*Jesus finished the work that God gave Him to do.* Do you finish your work each day? Will you be finished with your work when the school doors close this spring? The evening before Jesus was crucified, He said, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" (John 17:4). Just before He died He cried, "It is finished" (John 19:30). Why could Jesus say He had finished? Surely He could have found more work, had He chosen to look for more.

The secret of Jesus' finished work was that He always did God's perfect will (John 8:30). God knows best how each person can most effectively serve Him each day. If we follow Him each step of the way, we will finish His plan for us at the end of each day. The true measure of success is not how much we do, but whether we do God's will.

Bennie Hostetler in *CMTI Newslines*, April, 2000



## BAPTISM

Laura Fredericks Yosemite, California September 21

May God bless this young mother as she serves her family  
and the Lord Jesus in His Kingdom.

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## WATCHMAN

Watchmen on the walls of Zion,  
What, O tell us, of the night?  
Is the day-star now arising?  
Will the morn soon greet our sight?  
O'er your vision  
Shine there now some rays of light?

Tell, O tell us, are the landmarks  
On our voyage all passed by?  
Are we nearing now the haven?  
Can we e'en the land descry?  
Do we truly  
See the heavenly kingdom nigh?

Light is beaming; day is coming!  
Let us sound aloud the cry;  
We behold the day-star rising  
Pure and bright in yonder sky.  
Saints, be joyful;  
Your redemption draweth nigh.

We have found the chart and compass,  
And are sure the land is near;  
Onward, onward we are hasting,  
Soon the haven will appear;  
Let your voices  
Sound aloud your holy cheer.

Selected Author unknown

## LITTLE DROPS OF WATER

Little drops of water,  
Little grains of sand,  
Make the mighty ocean,  
And the pleasant land.

And the little moments,  
Humble though they be,  
Make the mighty ages  
Of eternity.

So our little errors  
Lead the soul away  
From the path of virtue  
Oft in sin to stray.

Little seeds of mercy,  
Sown by youthful hands,  
Grow to bless the nations  
Far in heathen lands.

Little deeds of kindness,  
Little words of love,  
Make our earth an Eden  
Like the heaven above.

Eben C. Brewer

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## FOR YOUTH DEFENSELESS?

The first we heard was the frantic cry of a small kitten. It came from under our doghouse which was a few inches off the ground. From this space protruded a coarse, black tail accompanied by a telltale skunk odor. The screams continued so I tipped the doghouse sideways exposing the skunk savagely chewing on the kitten. He didn't run until I hit him on the head with my long metal flashlight. Our dog tackled the skunk, fiercely shaking him to death and not giving him a chance to spray. The kitten was badly injured but will survive.

I had to think of I Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

Our young people and we older ones too, are like the kitten, so defenseless against a more powerful foe. We will surely be overcome if we don't have help. That help is the Lord Jesus who assures us that, "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4b) --L.C.

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## THE SPIDER AND THE FLY

"Will you walk into my parlor?" said the Spider to the Fly;  
"Tis the prettiest little parlor that ever you did spy.  
The way into my parlor is up a winding stair,  
And I have many curious things to show when you are there."  
"Oh, no, no," said the little Fly, "to ask me is in vain.  
For who goes up your winding stair can ne'er come down  
again."

"I'm sure you must be weary, dear, with soaring up so high;

Will you rest upon my little bed?" said the Spider to the Fly.

"There are pretty curtains drawn around; and the sheets are fine and thin."

"Oh, no, no," said the little Fly, "for I've often heard said, They never, never wake again who sleep upon your bed!"

Said the cunning Spider to the Fly, "Dear friend, what can I do To prove the warm affection I've always felt for you?

I have within my pantry good store of all that's nice;

I'm sure you're very welcome--will you please take a slice?"

"Oh, no, no," said the little Fly, "kind sir that cannot be;

I've heard what's in your pantry, and I do not wish to see!"

"Sweet creature!" said the Spider, "you're witty and you're wise; How handsome are your gauzy wings! How brilliant are your eyes!

I have a little looking glass upon my parlor shelf;

If you'll step in one moment, dear, you shall behold yourself."

"I thank you, gentle sir," she said, "for what you're pleased to say.

And bidding you "good morning" now, I'll call another day."

The Spider turned him round about and went into his den,

For well he knew the silly Fly would soon be back again:

So he wove a subtle web in a little corner sly,

And set his table ready to dine upon the Fly;

Then he came out to his door again, and merrily did sing,

"Come hither, hither, pretty Fly, with the pearl and silver wing;

Your robes are green and purple; there's a crest upon your head;

Your eyes are like the diamond bright, but mine are dull as lead."

Alas, alas! how very soon this silly little Fly,



Hearing his wily, flattering words, came slowly flitting by;  
With buzzing wings she hung aloft, then near and nearer drew,  
Thinking only of her brilliant eyes, and green and purple hue.  
Thinking only of her crested head--poor foolish thing! at last  
Up jumped the cunning Spider, and fiercely held her fast.  
He dragged her up his winding stair, into his dismal den  
Within his little parlor--but she ne'er came out again!

And now, dear little children, who may this story read,  
To idle, silly, flattering words, I pray you ne'er give heed;  
Unto an evil counsellor close heart, and ear, and eye,  
And take a lesson from this tale of the Spider and the Fly.

Mary Howitt -Selected

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### CHILDREN'S PAGE

What Am I?

Can you identify the following creatures?

1. I am a lovely iridescent green with two squarish, coppery spots on my back. I eat plants. If you look closely, you will see my antennae look like tiny little sprouts with two dainty leaves. My relatives come in many beautiful colors. Some look like they are made of very shiny metal. In fact, people like to collect and even wear them as jewelry! I am wonderfully designed by God. What am I?

2. I am a very unwelcome pest in people's gardens. I eat most anything you don't want me to eat. People squash me if they see me. They even put up traps for me, luring me in by smell. That smell really draws us, but we don't all find the trap. The neighbors may have less of us, but you will have more if you use a trap! You know the worst part? We don't even belong here! We are stow-aways from Asia! Surely I am part of the curse. What am I?

Number one is a type of Scarab Beetle called a Japanese Beetle. So is number two. Surprised?

There are several lessons we can learn from these descriptions. For example, we can build someone up or tear them down with our words. You have probably heard the saying, "I you have nothing good to say about someone, say nothing at all." Also, "Everyone has some good points. Look for them instead of faults." Try to be kind with your words.

Another lesson is that outward beauty does not make someone truly beautiful. Make sure your beauty is not only skin deep!

Another lesson is that we can deceive without actually lying. Maybe sometimes it is okay. Was I wrong to try to fool you with my descriptions? But if I leave you believing a lie, then I am a liar, even if I never really *said* an untruth.

Let's all strive to be beautiful, kind, and honest instead of being "Japanese Beetles."

Martha J. Wagner  
Gettysburg, Ohio

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## THANKFULNESS

To Thee, my heart, eternal King,  
Would now its thankful tribute bring;  
To Thee its humble homage raise  
In songs of ardent, grateful praise.

All nature shows Thy boundless love,  
In worlds below and worlds above;  
But in Thy blessed Word I trace  
The richer glories of Thy grace.

Here what delightful truths are given;  
Here Jesus shows the way to heaven;  
His name salutes my listening ear,  
Revives my heart, and checks my fear.

For love like this, O may our song,  
Through endless years Thy praise prolong;  
And distant climes Thy name adore,  
Till time and nature are no more.

From *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

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## SINCERE THANKSGIVING

What is more dangerous for the Christian, riches or poverty? Jesus assures us that He can bring His people through either one. But He warns: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." (Matt. 19:24) Mark records that this applies to them that *trust* in riches, and Jesus adds: "With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible." This is not said about those who have no riches. So can we conclude that wealth is more dangerous for the Christian?

We saw again the difference as we travelled to Haiti recently. It is hard to describe and sad to realize the poverty there. Buildings are weak and poor, lacking standards and inspectors. (We all heard of the collapse of a school building that killed up to ninety-four children and teachers, and injured many more while we were in Haiti.) Most roads are indescribably rough with rocks--especially since the torrential rains washed cushioning soil away. In rural areas, homes are on a network of foot paths. Women and children carry precious water in five gallon pails on their heads. Springs, wells, and rivers are for bathing and washing clothes. Many of these clothes are donated from other countries and are usually kept clean.

As we met Haitians, we saw frowns and serious expressions of need. But when we waved or spoke, there was a smile and a warm response. In their crowded services they sing hymns, "Take My Life and Let it Be," "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross," "Nearer Still Nearer." and many more, with fervor and enthusiasm.



Their animals, goats, pigs, donkeys, and even cows, are smaller than those raised with plenty of good food. Their farming is done by hand with a pick loosening the soil to plant millet, sweet potatoes, corn, or beans.

At busy clinics, missionaries treat diseases, injuries, aches and pains. A few doctors practice at ill-equipped hospitals in the crowded cities. Even at the hospitals there is carelessness, mistakes, poor work, and a scarcity of supplies is evident.

Elwood Martin, from Indiana, directs the mission at Gros Mapou. They have a church and school building with a dirt floor. Electric power is from a generator and solar panels. Out of their home Anita Martin conducts an unmarked clinic, dispensing drugs, dressing wounds, and giving advice to as many as seventy-five in one morning. The patients start coming before daylight and wait for the clinic to open at 8:00. Some have walked for hours. Twice in one day we saw a loved grandmother carried in on a chair supported by strong bamboo poles on the shoulders of two young men.

We have so much by comparison. If wealth is dangerous, we should walk carefully. However, it is not right to attain poverty by laziness or carelessness. But for God's abundant blessings we should be sincerely thankful.

So what are we recommending to us who are so rich by world averages? First we should see Jesus as our perfect example as well as the bearer of our sins. We should be sensitive to God's leading, both by His Word and by His Spirit. Give liberally. Spend wisely. Hold these possessions lightly; they belong to God and we are His stewards. Remember I Corinthians 4:7a: "For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive?"

*Lord, at this time of thanksgiving, touch us with compassion for those who have little of this world's goods. Teach us of the greater danger of trusting in riches. And give us thankful hearts. --L.C.*

## WHERE ARE THE NINE?

And Jesus answering said; "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?" (Luke 17:17)

In this account of the cleansing of the ten lepers, we have the sad picture of those pitiable lepers dwelling as outcasts. In Lev. 13:45 we read: "And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry Unclean, unclean." Likely these lepers referred to were so separated, and diseased in the various stages of this dreaded plague.

Jesus' fame in healing and helping mankind in all the sorrows and ills of life, had spread even to them; so it was a pitiful cry of desperation, as they stood afar off and called, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." Jesus hears every cry of distress and pain when humbly addressed to Him, pleading for help in time of need. So He tells them to go and show themselves to the priests. What a picture as we can see them hastily departing, and soon with cries of joy and wondering amazement, they behold their filthy, defiled bodies glow with full health and vigor, "made perfectly whole."

We do not know if the nine kept on and arrived at the temple to show themselves to the priests, or whether they just went their way as their desires led them; we can only say with Jesus, "Where are the nine?" We do see in this wonderful account the grateful Samaritan turning back upon feeling the cleansing, healing power in his body, coming back and falling at the feet of Jesus in grateful thanksgiving to Him who said to this stranger, "Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole."

Once more we come to thanksgiving season reminding us of our blessings that come down "from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning," common to us all, yet without them we could not exist. These common

blessings: sunshine, air, water, food, clothing, and shelter have been given to man down through the ages, going back to the beginning of time and man's appearance upon earth--common blessings even of the paradise of Eden.

The children of God have special reasons for thanksgiving. All the above mentioned blessings all mankind enjoys, and also the forgiveness of sins, the gift of the Holy Ghost, the "promise of the life which now is, and of that which is to come," the heavenly powers present in every time of need, the assurance that God hears when we call to Him, and the complete direction and guidance safe to our homeland.

Thanksgiving is more than expression of the lips and voice; we must feel it within. Where are the nine? They have not returned to give God thanks yet, and perhaps never will.

The thankful hearts are classed as one; the words, the heart, even their deeds show them at the feet of Jesus, and they hear His words "Depart in peace, thy faith hath made thee whole."

Let us all at this another Thanksgiving Day remember and gather in our homes or in assembly of worship, render due praise and thanksgiving for the common, the special spiritual, and national blessings we enjoy, giving glory to God.

Where are the nine? were they not whole  
And free to walk with fellow men?  
Leaving their filthy, diseased role;  
At first their company numbered ten.

Where are the nine? for one had gone,  
Back at the Saviour's feet was seen;  
Thankful for what the Lord had done,  
Making his leprous body clean.

Where are the nine? their day is past,  
And God alone knows where they lay:

The trump to wake will sound at last,  
And all must meet at judgment day.

Where are the nine? in years and days,  
Some in ungrateful ways move on;  
No thankful words, no songs of praise  
To God until life's day has gone.

Where are the nine? where are the nine?  
The words of Jesus speak to all.  
The grateful children stand in line,  
And at the feet of Jesus fall.

--J. I. Cover

Condensed from *The Pilgrim*, November, 1957

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### SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

To my knowledge, the only two times the term "seventy times seven" is used in Scripture are the following two passages recording the words of Lamech and the words of Christ:

Gen. 4:23,24

- 23 And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.
- 24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.

Matt. 18:21,22

- 21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?
- 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.



In Lamech's case, he was speaking of vengeance. Jesus was speaking of forgiveness. But the situation of Lamech and that posed by Peter's question to Jesus are the same. In each case, Lamech and Peter were talking about individuals that had wronged or injured them. It is in the response to offenses that others perpetrate against us that the difference between Lamech's response and that of Jesus is most apparent.

Lamech's words indicate that he felt he was justified in killing the man he spoke of having slain. Apparently this man that Lamech speaks of having slain had wounded and hurt him. Why Lamech felt that taking another man's life was an appropriate response is not given. But it is clear that Lamech was seeking revenge and he got it. The sad thing about revenge is that even when we get revenge on our enemy, it is never enough. Lamech's statement of wanting to be avenged "seventy and sevenfold" borders on the ridiculous, but I believe it reveals a common attitude of those who set their hearts to seek revenge. The punishment sought is disproportionate to the offense.

Peter came to Jesus with much the same situation that Lamech had; his brother had sinned against him, apparently more than once. However, Peter knew something that Lamech did not. Peter knew that he ought to forgive, but he thought that there surely must be some limit. He even suggests an answer when asking Jesus how many times he ought to forgive his brother. Jesus responds with love and truth when he tells Peter to forgive seventy times seven. Perhaps Jesus used this term "seventy times seven" to remind us that putting a limit on forgiveness will eventually lead us down the same road of vengeance Lamech trod so many centuries ago. While that may be speculation, there is nothing in Jesus' response to Peter that discounts the seriousness of the sin or trespass Peter is speaking of, only that forgiveness is the only real answer.

The difference between Lamech and Peter lies not in the nature of the offense, but in the response of the offended. Just as no amount of revenge ever satisfies those who seek it, so the Christian must never be satisfied with anything less than forgiveness that goes beyond the offense. And isn't this really what Jesus Christ did for you and me when He died on the cross? Do we really have any right to not forgive?

Eddie Wagner, Modesto, California

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### A FAITHFUL PERSON

God is many things. He is loving, kind, compassionate, and just. He is all-knowing, all-powerful and everywhere all at once. He is also faithful, and His faithfulness is great. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22,23)

When we think of God's great faithfulness and our smallness, we should be in awe of Him. It should make us worship. In school the children have learned that the word *worship* means to actually prostrate one's self.

We took a trip this past summer. We drove about 5,000 miles. God's faithfulness in protecting us all those miles was great. On the way home, we stopped at Yellowstone National Park. We saw many amazing, natural things there. We watched a geyser named "Old Faithful." This breath-taking display erupts faithfully at regular intervals, and the rangers can predict this so people can come and watch. Sure enough, the crowd began to gather. We all waited not knowing exactly when, but because the geyser was "Old Faithful," we saw a spectacular explosion of hot water and steam billowing out of the ground. It was well worth the wait. Faithful--like God.

Really, "Old Faithful" is a little like God, not the other way around. After all, God created "Old Faithful." We can depend

on God. We don't always know how or when He will provide, but He is faithful to give us what is best for us.

There is no question about God's being faithful. Are we?

The dictionary says that faithfulness is an attribute of both God and man implying loyalty, constancy, and freedom from fickleness. God wants us to be faithful, and we can be. He promises not to give us more than we can bear. (I Cor. 10:13)

It is important to be dependable and consistent. Proverbs 25:19 says, "Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth and a foot out of joint." Have you ever had a broken tooth or foot? It's not useful at all and very inconvenient. Many talented people are not useful because they have never learned to be faithful. Faithfulness is required in stewards. (I Cor. 4:2) There is no substitute.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him. . . ." (Hebrews 11:6). There is a connection between faith and faithfulness. Let's be faithful in our faith.

So even if there are things we don't know or can't do, let's be faithful in the things we do know and the things we can do. If we do our best, that is what counts. We don't expect the little boys to be able to do the big boys' chores. There are jobs for all skill levels, but there are no jobs for the unfaithful.

Samuel and Rosanna Royer  
Nappanee, Indiana

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#### AT SONORA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

*Bryan Lewis is chaplain of the hospital.*

L.C. "Well, we have a new President."

Bryan "Yes, and I think he will do very well. I know him personally and have been in his home."

L.C. "Do you really know Obama?"

Bryan "Oh, you mean that President. I was thinking of the new president of our hospital."

We agreed that we should pray for our President, and trust that God will use him to lead our country rightly. We should also pray for the lesser leaders in our society.

What followed was a good discussion on voting, holding office, and the separation of the two kingdoms.

We have four duties to our government: to pray for it, to respect its leaders, pay its taxes, and obey its laws. But our first duty is to the Lord Jesus-- to obey Him, give out His Gospel, and tell what He has done for us. --L.C.

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### IMITATION OF CHRIST Of Bearing with the Faults of Others

Those things that a man cannot amend in himself or in others, he ought to suffer patiently, until God order them otherwise.

Think that perhaps it is better so for thy trial and patience, without which all our good deeds are not much to be esteemed.

Thou oughtest to pray notwithstanding when thou hast such impediments, that God would vouchsafe to help thee, and that thou mayest bear them rightly.

2. If one that is once or twice warned will not give over, content not with him: but commit all to God, that His will may be done, and His name honored in all His servants, who well knoweth how to turn evil into good.

Endeavor to be patient in bearing with the defects and infirmities of others, of what sort soever they be: for that thyself also hast many failings which must be borne with by others.

If thou canst not make thyself such an one as thou wouldest, how canst thou expect to have another in all things to thy liking?



We would willingly have others perfect, and yet we amend not our own faults.

3. We will have others severely corrected, and will not be corrected ourselves.

The large liberty of others displeaseth us; and yet we will not have our own desires denied us.

We will have others kept under by strict laws; but in no sort will ourselves be restrained.

And thus it appeareth, how seldom we weigh our neighbor in the same balance with ourselves.

If all men were perfect, what should we have to suffer of our neighbor for the sake of God?

4. But now God hath thus ordered it, that we may learn to bear one another's burdens; for no man is without fault; no man but hath his burden; no man is sufficient of himself; no man is wise enough of himself; but we ought to bear with one another, comfort one another, help, instruct, and admonish one another.

Occasions of adversity best discover how great virtue or strength each one hath.

For occasions do not make a man frail, but they shew what he is.

Thomas A Kempis

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## THANKSGIVING DAY

We thank God this Thanksgiving Day,  
For all these treasured stores;  
Fruits of our labors from the fields,  
And gardens and much more;  
For peace on earth, goodwill toward men,  
For we have lived in peace  
We hear again and yet again  
That warfares never cease.

Help us to hear the orphan's cry,  
And share our treasures too,  
Lord give us strength as days go by,  
As we the years review,  
To help the needy, those in pain,  
Who comfort from us seek;  
And then when he need help; again,  
These words of comfort speak.

"Ye who are weary, come to me,  
And I will give you rest;"  
For there are those across the sea  
Who're not so richly blessed;  
And some with not much food to eat,  
Help us to share with these;  
Then may we hear these echoes sweet:  
"Ye've done it unto me."

--Esther R. Weber

---

### WATER TO WINE

How can I thank Thee, Master,  
Saviour and Friend divine?  
Though fain I would sing  
Thy praises to bring,  
Too finite these words of mine.

How can I give Thee, Master  
All of the praise I owe  
When words are too small  
To utter at all  
The peace that Your children know?

How can I serve Thee, Master,  
Maker of Earth and sea?  
The flesh is so frail--  
Alone, I would fail  
To render my life to Thee.

Yet, Thou hast promised power;  
Strengthen these hands of mine!  
Thy Spirit impart  
To dwell in my heart;  
My water transform to wine.

Susanna K. Tate  
Elkhart, Indiana

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#### BIRTHS

RHOADES - A son, Patrick Allen, born October 25 to Keith and Marlene Rhoades of Greenville, Ohio.

BEERY - A daughter, Keturah Hope, born October 30 to Daniel and Miriam Beery of Goshen, Indiana.

KREIDER - A son, Rylan Dale, born November 7 to Jason and Heather Kreider of Greenville, Ohio.

-----

#### ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

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Middlebury, IN 46540-8839  
phone: (574) 825-2462

## THE LOVE OF JESUS

Oh heart that's broken, crushed, and torn;  
Oh heart that is with sorrow worn;  
The heart that's filled with grief and sin,  
That's empty, sinking deep within.

Jesus whispers, "Child, I care.  
I want your burdens to bear.  
I want to mend your broken heart,  
To pick up each piece, every part;  
To show the tenderness of love.

I want you to love me as I love you.  
I want to lead you each trial through.  
I want your soul redeemed and bought.  
I want to fill your every thought,  
To give you a taste of love.

Your soul is more treasured than silver or gold,  
More precious than rubies or riches untold.  
I want to mold and shape it;  
I want it for eternity fit.  
That my love may bring you to heaven.

Teresa Miller, Bourbon, Indiana

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## FOR YOUTH

What this Country Needs

We met in the library one afternoon.

"Hello, Doris." I always enjoy talking to this spunky, elderly lady.

"Hello. How are you? What are you reading?"



"I'm reading about Obama and the upcoming election. I don't really follow it, so it's kind of hard to understand."

"What this country needs is someone who will step into the presidency and do something about this national debt!" she exclaimed. "They need to stop giving people who pay no taxes so many handouts. Our national debt has more than doubled since Bush took office. . . ." On she went down her list of grievances.

"We need more people like you in our country. You folks should vote," she declared. "I don't know if I'll vote this election or not. I don't really like any of the candidates this year, but if I don't, that's just another vote that Obama gets."

I tried to explain to her that God's kingdom and the world's kingdom are different and that the Bible tells us to pray for our rulers, but we believed voting would involve us in the world's kingdom. "Do you remember the election before John Kennedy took office?" I asked. "Many plain people were afraid to have him be president because he was Catholic. They remembered how the Catholics had persecuted their forefathers in Europe. That year, many Mennonites and Amish voted against Kennedy who wouldn't have otherwise tried to keep him from winning the election. In spite of that, Kennedy became President. If God allowed him to win the election race that year, does that mean those people voted against God's plan?"

"My husband has Mennonite relatives who don't vote," she told me. "Do pray for our country right now, though. We need a lot of prayer."

Young people, even though the election is past, our country still needs prayer warriors. The need has never been greater. Let's stand on the Word of God and speak up for Christ.

Jesse Martin

Wakarusa, Indiana

CHILDREN'S PAGE  
I Want to Be Like Jesus

I want to be like Jesus,  
As He was when a Child,  
To speak words sweet and loving,  
With temper meek and mild;  
And in the home, as he did,  
My parents to obey,  
And help by doing gladly  
My share of tasks each day.

I want to be like Jesus  
As He was when a lad,  
To play as fair and kindly,  
I'll make my playmates glad;  
To be as generous always,  
My good things I will share,  
And help make people happier  
Around me everywhere.

May be sung to "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

By Mary Brainerd Smith, From *Junior Hymns*

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"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the  
Saviour of the world." (I John 4:14)

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## AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL

"His name shall be Wonderful." This Babe for whom,  
Even in village inn, there was no room?

The lowing of cattle was His lullaby,  
Though caroling angels were thronging the sky.

"His name shall be Wonderful." This little Lad,  
Living so simply, and so plainly clad?

"His name shall be Wonderful." This Carpenter,  
Known from His childhood by each villager?

"His name shall be Wonderful." Spat upon, shamed,  
Tortured and crucified--how is He named?

Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God,  
He who one dark day Golgotha's road trod?

His name **shall** be Wonderful--Jesus, God's Son!  
God's Word has promised, and it shall be done!

Not meek and lowly, despised among men,  
This same Lord Jesus is coming again. . .

With clouds and great glory, to reign here below,  
And all men shall praise Him, and each knee shall bow  
From ocean to ocean His name shall be heard,  
Wonderful name of our wonderful Lord!

By Martha Snell Nicholson  
Selected by Susie Wagner  
for *The Pilgrim*, December, 1981

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## FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN,

These are the words of Isaiah, but he obviously speaks for the nation of Israel, and even more broadly, for the whole world including us. "For unto us. . ." The government was to be upon His shoulder. Not the government of U.S.A. like President Bush or President Obama, but that of the nations and kingdoms of the whole earth. According to verse 7, His kingdom will continually increase without end.

Following in verse 6 is a description of this mighty One. His name shall be called--

**Wonderful.** The Hebrew word means a miracle, a marvellous thing. Paul writes that it is a name above every name--that at this name every knee should bow. Every stiff, rebellious knee as well as every willing knee will someday bow. Every tongue should confess. Those tongues used in blasphemy and defiance and those used to worship God and sing His praise will someday confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Counsellor** Much like we use it today, this words means to advise or resolve. What counsel He has given! Read Matthew 5, 6, and 7--the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus advised the Laodicean Church: "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire. . ." This gold must be the same Peter writes about: "the trial of your faith" more precious that gold.

**The Mighty God** Throughout the Scriptures gods of all kinds are described and denounced. Paul writes of "gods many and lords many." "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." (I Cor 8:6) Other of His titles are King of Kings and Lord of Lords.



**The Everlasting Father** The passage in I Corinthians says that God is the Father. Here Isaiah proclaims that this child to be born is the everlasting Father. Our finite minds cannot comprehend the oneness of God. Wondrous revelation! Let us believe, worship, and adore. Do we need to understand?

**The Prince of Peace** This title is more within our grasp. Jesus tells us that in Him we will have peace--in the world, tribulation. We have found it so, have we not?

Yearly we remember and honor the birth of this "Holy Child Jesus" (See Acts 4:30.) Two of the gospel writers record it. Though we are not commanded to celebrate it, this can take root in our minds as the incarnation of the very Son of God. He was born like we were born. He was born to suffer and die in atonement for our sins. O come let us adore Him! --L.C.

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### GOD'S TEMPLE

I Cor. 3:16-17

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

Just before these two verses, the apostle Paul rebukes these Corinthian Christians for their carnality and devisiveness. He explains that it really matters how we build on the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. As Christians our conduct in this world will be tried by fire and that which is not worthy will be destroyed. Paul gives the example of building with various materials--gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble. Some of these materials are able to effectively withstand fire. Silver and gold are refined by fire. Wood, hay, and stubble are destroyed.

With these thoughts in mind, Paul asks the question found

in verse 16. His point is that we are the temple of God and God's Spirit dwells within us. Now if we are God's dwelling place, then we are holy by reason of God who dwells within us. But the apostle's warning here is to those (and remember that Paul is writing to Christians here) who would defile the temple of God. God will not remain in a defiled house. In fact, this Scripture indicates that He will destroy the defiled dwelling place. This sheds a whole new light on how we live in this world.

Those of us who have come to Christ in faith, repentance, and baptism have the foundation of Jesus Christ in our lives. We are building day by day, thought by thought, deed by deed upon that foundation. Just as one line of bricks in a building depends on the previous line of bricks below it for strength and stability, so it is in our own lives. What I allow in my life today will strengthen or weaken my witness and my walk tomorrow, next week, or next year.

The Word also indicates that there are different qualities of material that we can build with. There are times in my life I find myself doing something good that I enjoy instead of what God might be calling me to that might not be so enjoyable. Just as it is possible to make a poorly built structure look good for a short period of time with a lot of cheap paint and low quality plaster, so our lives can be filled with words and deeds that may look and sound good but will not endure through the storms of life. If we are not careful, we can do many good and commendable things with the wrong motives.

The real lesson in this verse for me was that God will destroy those who defile His temple. What we think about, look at, listen to, do, and enjoy is of utmost importance. We should be sober and serious about what we allow into our lives. As Paul tells us in I Cor. 6:20, "Ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. Eddie Wagner, Modesto, California

IMITATION OF CHRIST  
Of A Good Peaceable Man

Keep thyself first in peace, and then shalt thou be able to pacify others. A peaceable man doth more good than he that is well learned. A passionate man turneth even good into evil, and easily believeth evil. A good peaceable man turneth all things to good. He that is well in peace, is not suspicious of any. But he that is discontented and troubled, is tossed with divers suspicions: he is neither quiet himself, nor suffereth others to be quiet. He often speaketh that which he ought not to speak; and omitteth that which were more expedient for him to do. He considereth what others are bound to do, and neglecteth that which he is bound to himself.

First, therefore, have a careful zeal over thyself, and then thou mayest justly be zealous also towards thy neighbour. Thou knowest well how to excuse and colour thine own deeds, but thou art not willing to receive the excuses of others. It were more just that thou shouldest accuse thyself, and excuse thy brother. If thou wilt be borne withal, bear also with another.

2. Behold, how far off thou art yet from true charity and humility, which knoweth not how to be angry with any, or to be moved with indignation, but only against its own self. It is no great matter to associate with the good and gentle; for this is naturally pleasing to all, and every one willingly enjoyeth peace, and loveth those best that agree with him. But to be able to live peaceably with hard, and perverse, or undisciplined persons, is a great grace, and an exceedingly commendable and manly deed.

3. Some there that keep themselves in peace, and are in peace also with others. And there are some that neither are in peace themselves, nor leave others to be in peace: They are troublesome to others, but always more troublesome to



themselves. And there are that keep themselves in peace, and study to bring others unto peace.

Nevertheless, our whole peace in this miserable life consisteth rather in humble sufferance, than in not feeling adversities. Whoso knoweth best how to suffer, will keep the greatest peace. That man is conqueror of himself, and lord of the world, the friend of Christ, and heir of heaven.

--Thomas A Kempis

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*We present the following article for discussion and consideration in operating our Christian schools. It is well thought out and worthy of our study.*

### MAINTAINING A BOARD-OPERATED SCHOOL

What do we mean by a board-operated school? Why do we want it, and how do we maintain it?

First let us explore some possible **misconceptions** as to what a board-operated school is.

1. *The school board is the final authority in relation to school functions.* Although in some settings this may be correct, we view our schools as a part of the program of the church. The school board operates the school in conjunction with, and by the direction of, the church.

2. *Parents have no responsibility to be involved in the work of the school, because the board is operating the school.* The Christian day school movement was born out of the concern of parents for the spiritual welfare of their children. Although the church has risen to her responsibility in helping concerned parents operate the school by appointing or electing a board from her number, yet the patrons must view the school as theirs. The board is responsible to direct and manage the school, but it should ever strive to involve the parents in the work. To call on patrons to help in maintaining the building, to



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Marlin Frick	Dec. 30, 2007	Rachel Frick	Jun 22
Mike Fredericks	Mar 2	Matthias Royer	Jun 22
Japheth Martin	Mar 16	Louis Miller	Jun 22
Jordan Royer	Mar 16	Clement Martin	Jun 22
Christian Savage	Mar 21	Ross Martin	Jun 22
Kaylin Royer	Mar 23	Sophia Royer	Jun 22
Janita Royer	Mar 23	Edith Cover	Aug 17
Lydia Beery	Jun 1	Laura Fredericks	Sep 21
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Jennifer Hope Flory	Feb 6	Patrick Allen Rhoades	Oct 25
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Clark Nelson Stump	Apr 23	Rylan Dale Kreider	Nov 7
Pollyanna Mae Cable	Apr 24	Israel Joseph Tate	Nov 25
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Joe Royer	Elder	Jan 27
Daniel Beery	Elder	Jan 27
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Hazel L. Weaver	Mar 13, 1920 - Dec 9, 2007
Donald Floyd Kline	Apr 24, 1933 - Dec 19, 2007
Viola May Wolf	July 5, 1909 - Feb 19, 2008
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come along as chaperons on field trips and singing programs, and to visit school and learn to know the teachers personally are a few ways to involve the parents in the work of the school.

3. *The board dictates a strict code of procedure from which the faculty dare not deviate.* The role of the board is to give guidelines as well as specifics to follow, but finally, the teachers are hired to teach and maintain proper classroom atmosphere. The board must communicate its expectations to the teachers, but then, within the framework outlined, allow variation of techniques and procedures to effectively order the school.

Next we want to consider some **motives** for the board-operated school.

1. *The purpose of our schools is primarily academic (the acquisition of secular knowledge) but in a setting that is conducive to spiritual development.* For the teacher who is striving for academic excellence, the superior academic quality of textbook A may easily take precedence over textbook B, in spite of spiritually unsound concepts contained in textbook A. The board, from a bit less intense position, is better able to keep the overall perspective in focus.

2. *The continuity of a board-operated school provides stability.* At times, for various reasons, teachers have relatively short terms of service. The experienced, involved school board not only assists the new teacher in effectively filling his role but establishes a pattern of practice that provides a sense of stability for all involved.

3. *The school board provides an effective communication channel between the patrons and the teachers.* At times, the patrons have concerns about the teacher, his teaching method, or a disciplinary action. And transversely, the teacher about the patron. The board can, at those times, be a knowledgeable and productive conveyance of those concerns or a neutralizer of potentially explosive differences or misunderstandings.

4. *When the board operates the school, a broad base of involvement is provided.* It alleviates the potential imbalance of a school operated by a principal or a teacher's coalition. It also provides the stabilizing effect of having the church constituency and the patron body represented in the controlling voice of the school without requiring the whole constituency to gather to dispose of issues. The Scriptures tell us in Proverbs 11:14, "In the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

There are several **methods** that will aid in maintaining a board-operated school.

To be actively involved in the work of the school is essential. A school board that is involved only to the monthly board meeting will not effectively operate the school.

1. *The board should periodically visit school, thereby gaining a "feel" of the proceedings and atmosphere in the classroom and on the playground.*

2. *One or two members of the board should be present at the regular faculty meetings to give additional insights to, and assistance in, the day-to-day workings of the school.* Any aspects of the school, observed in visiting or otherwise, that need adjustment or correction may be discussed. A personal problem that surfaces regarding a teacher, however, would be better dealt with in private.

3. *Help and approval should be given on scheduling, curriculum, and library books.* Teachers may make recommendations for the board to consider in these areas.

4. *The board should direct and approve the extracurricular activities, such as field trips, school trips, craft projects, and singing / recitation programs.*

5. *The decision as to who will attend the school is a board responsibility, whether relating to preschool exams or those outside the church constituency.*

In all our goals and efforts, may we be conscious of the call to be laborers together with God in maintaining schools that are

helping to produce useful citizens in the kingdom of God and the society in which we live. By J. Wilmer Eshbach

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### MARRIAGES

**ROYER - MARTIN** Brenton Royer and Stella Martin were married November 22 near Wakarusa, Indiana.

New address: 28230 C. R. 42

Wakarusa, IN 46573-9720

Brenton's cell: (574) 320-5008

Stella's cell: (574) 320-2704

**FRICK - BAYER** Marlin Frick and Regina Bayer were married December 6, near Bradford, Ohio.

New address: 841 Krietzer Dr.

New Lebanon. OH 45345

Marlin's cell: (937) 621-0635

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### BIRTHS

**TATE** - A son, Israel Joseph, born November 25 to Forrest and Joy Tate of Mishawaka, Indiana.

**HILTY** - A daughter, Ada Louise, born December 11 to Allan and Carletta Hilty of New Madison, Ohio.

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### BAPTISM

Ralph Stalter Nappanee, Indiana October 5

We pray God's blessing on this dear brother as he leads his family and serves the Lord Jesus Christ in His kingdom.

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### NOTE OF THANKS

Heartfelt thanks to all who have shown so much concern and support during my recent colon surgery (benign, praise God!) and recovery. We felt the prayers and appreciated the visits, phone calls, and notes. May God bless our dear friends.

Leslie and Martha Cover



FOR YOUTH (AND ADULTS TOO)  
A Clear Conscience

Someone has said, "A clear conscience is usually a sign of a bad memory." Is it only possible to have a clear conscience by forgetting? Do we clear our conscience if we forget about our sin?

God in His mercy gives us a guilty conscience when we sin. But getting a clear conscience involves more than a determined effort to forget our sin. Even if we forget, we are still guilty. Many people, however, deliberately choose to forget about wrongs they have done. That is why the man who makes a dishonest business deal can go to sleep at night.

My neighbor told me about a business deal he had with another man. They had agreed that the other man would give him some firewood in exchange for some car parts. The man got the car parts, but my neighbor never got his firewood. The one man deliberately chose not to keep his part of the agreement. After I heard it, I commented that that man probably doesn't sleep with that on his mind. My neighbor immediately replied, "You are wrong! People like that can sleep very well." How can they? Because to them, sin is not exceedingly sinful, and they simply choose to forget it in order to live with themselves.

Friends, there is a much better way. Within each individual, God has placed His divine law. When man transgresses God's divine law, he loses harmony with God. That is why "the wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion." (Proverbs 28:1) Instead of trying to flee from a guilty conscience by ignoring it, ask God for His help. In Acts 2:37, men with guilty consciences asked, "What shall we do:" The next verse gives the answer: "Repent, and be baptized."



If we confess and repent of our sins, we can stand before God with a clear conscience. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19) How beautiful! What is more refreshing than knowing that our sins are blotted out before our holy, almighty God and enjoying the resultant clear conscience? When our conscience is cleared by God's forgiveness, that is not a sign of a bad memory, but a sign of peace with God. What a priceless gift from God! By James Fox, From *Star of Hope* July, 2007

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## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### Helping Mother

"Jane and Lois, will you please wash the dishes for me? I must take care of Bobby. He is not feeling well," Mother said one Saturday morning.

"All right, Mother," the girls agreed.

"Lois, let's hurry and get these dishes done; then maybe we can play," said Jane.

Soon the dishes were finished and the girls were getting ready to play.

"Girls, I have another job I would like you to do," Mother said. "The basement is so untidy and dirty where you children play sometimes; will you please clean it? You girls are being a big help to me," Mother smiled.

"We like to help you, Mother, and we like to play, too." answered Jane with a smile.

"Come. Lois, we will make it nice and clean for Mother." Jane took the broom and Lois the dustpan and they went to the basement.

"I will sweep," said Jane. "You put these boxes over there on a pile."

"We should move those baskets with the boots and sweep under them," stated Lois.

"Yes, and hang up all these coats." replied Jane.

As the girls worked they could hear Mother and Rose working in the kitchen.

"I hope Mother has some cookies baked for us when we are finished," said Lois.

Soon the job was done and the girls went to see what was smelling so good in the kitchen. Yes, Mother was baking cookies!

"They are not done yet," said Mother. "Bobby is taking so much of my time this morning. I am so glad for my good helpers. Are you finished with the basement?"

"Yes, we are; come and see how it looks," said Jane.

"Yes, Mother, come and see," replied Lois.

Mother went with the girls to the basement. "Well, girls, you did a very good job," said Mother. "I think you deserve to play until dinner is ready. I'll tell you when the cookies are baked and you may have some. Thank you for your good help."

By Mary Gerber, From *Wee Lambs*, March, 1971

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